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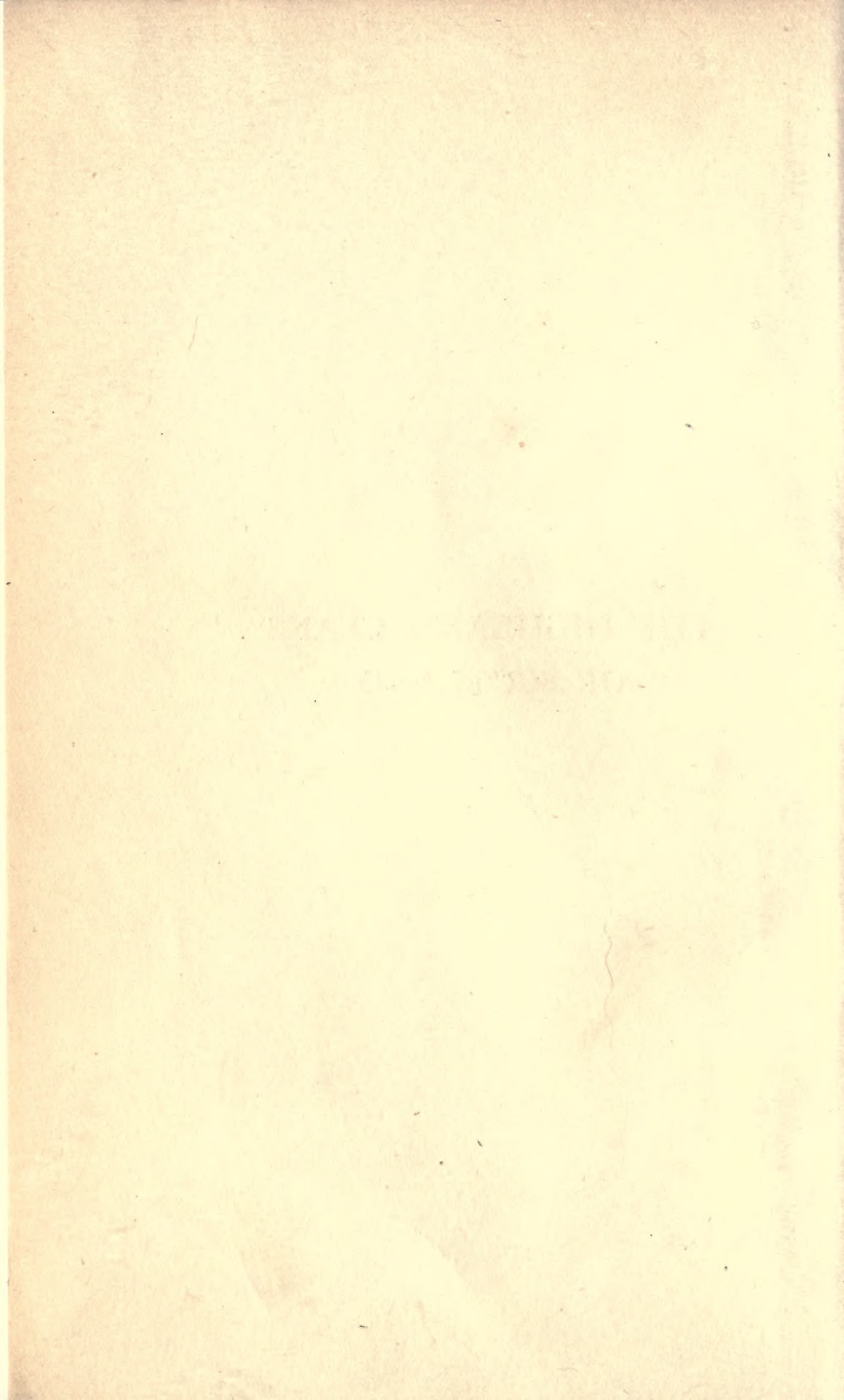


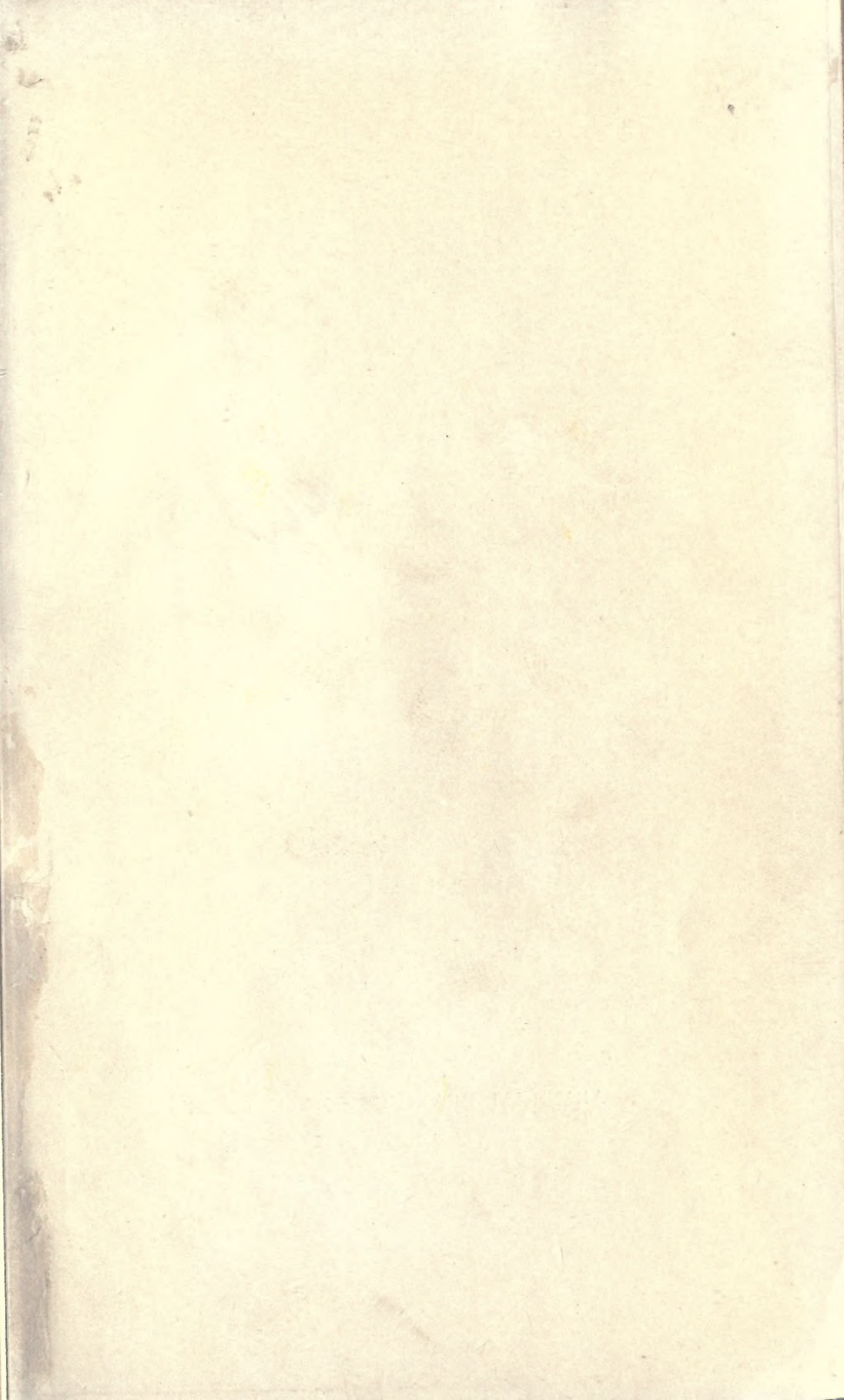






THE HIGHLAND CLANS  
OF SCOTLAND









2257  
The Highland CLANS of  
Scotland: Their History and  
Traditions. By George Eyre-Todd

With an Introduction by A. M. MACKINTOSH

WITH ONE HUNDRED AND TWENTY-TWO ILLUSTRATIONS,  
INCLUDING REPRODUCTIONS OF M'IAN'S CELEBRATED  
PAINTINGS OF THE COSTUMES OF THE CLANS



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MAC DONALD OF KEPPOCH



## THE MACDONALDS OF KEPPOCH

BADGE : Fraoch gorm (*erica vulgaris*) common heath.

SLOGAN : Dia 's Naomh Aindrea.

PIBROCH : Ceapach na fasaich, and Blar Mhaol rua'.

AN interesting subject for the pen of the Scottish historical student would be the mass of evil consequences, extending for centuries afterwards, which flowed from the moral indiscretion of Robert II., first of the Stewart kings. As a warrior and a statesman the Stewart was in every way worthy of his grandfather, King Robert the Bruce. It was his private conduct, in the matter of his conjugal relationships, which entailed such endless woes upon his descendants and upon Scotland. Though legitimated by a Papal dispensation in 1347, eight years before his second marriage, there can be no question that the Stewart's early connection with Elizabeth Mure of Rowallan was irregular. Out of this fact arose the claim of the children of his later marriage with Euphemia Ross, the Earls of Strathearn and Atholl, to be the proper heirs of the Crown, a claim which brought about the assassination of James I. and the terrible Douglas Wars against James II. At the same time, by their own acts the children of Elizabeth Mure brought a heritage of woe on Scotland. The eldest son, John, ascended the throne as Robert III., but the third son, the ambitious, able Robert, Duke of Albany, ruled the country, secured the death of Robert III.'s elder son, by starvation, at Falkland, and the capture and long imprisonment of the king's second son, afterwards James I., by the English, for which betrayal a fearful nemesis was suffered by his own son and grandsons on Stirling heading hill. Elizabeth Mure's fourth son was the savage Alexander Stewart, Earl of Buchan, better known as the Wolf of Badenoch, whose defiance of the laws of God and man kept the northern half of Scotland in fire and bloodshed for more than twenty years. To mention only one other of the twenty-one children of Robert II., his eldest daughter Margaret, who was married to John, Lord of the Isles, in 1350, carried with her what seems to have been nothing less than a curse. To make way for her, the Lord of the Isles set aside his first wife, Amy MacRuari, with her

children, and from that day the misfortunes of the great House of the Isles began, and the downfall of the whole race of Macdonald. It was Margaret Stewart's son, Donald of the Isles, who married a sister of the Earl of Ross, and on that Earl's death claimed the Earldom. This was claimed also by his uncle, Robert, Duke of Albany, for his own younger son. To assert his claim Donald, in 1411, marched across Scotland and fought the bloody battle of Harlaw, where he was defeated by his cousin, Alexander Stewart, Earl of Mar, eldest natural son of the Wolf of Badenoch. It is true that in 1431 the tables were turned, when the same Earl of Mar was defeated by the Islesmen, under Donald Balloch, in the fierce battle of Inverlochy; but the victory brought down upon Alexander, the next Lord of the Isles, Margaret Stewart's grandson, condign punishment at the hands of his other cousin, King James I., and the misfortunes of the house went from less to more, till in 1493 John, "fourth and last" Lord of the Isles, died a forfeited and landless man in Paisley Abbey or Dundee.

In these matters the Macdonalds of Keppoch shared the misfortunes of the great House of the Isles from which they had sprung. Their ancestor was Alastair, third son of John, Lord of the Isles, and Margaret Stewart, daughter of King Robert II. Angus Og, the father of John of the Isles, who figures as the hero in Scott's poem, had received from King Robert the Bruce, as a reward for loyal support, the lands of Morven, Ardnamurchan, and Lochaber, forfeited by his kinsmen the MacDougals of Lorne, and John of the Isles made his third son Lord of Lochaber. In a deed of 1398 Alastair is termed "*Magnificus vir et potens*," and for three hundred years his descendants were known as the race of Alastair Carraich. It was not till the end of the seventeenth century that the Keppoch Chief, Colla MacGillieaspuig, on the persuasion of his kinsman, the Glengarry Chief, Lord MacDonell and Aros, resumed the family name of Macdonald. The stronghold of the Macdonalds of Keppoch stood on high ground at the meeting of the Roy and the Spean, where, within the last hundred years the fruit trees of their old garden continued to blossom and bear fruit.

Meanwhile much water had flowed past the walls of that Lochaber fastness. Notably in 1431, while Alexander, Lord of the Isles, lay a prisoner in Tantallon, and his mother, the Countess of Ross, was immured on Inchcolm, Alastair Carraich joined the formidable invasion of the Islesmen under his cousin, Donald Balloch,



Chief of Clanranald, which routed the Royal forces under Alexander Stewart, Earl of Mar, and the Earl of Caithness at Inverlochy. For this the lordship of Lochaber was forfeited and bestowed by James I. on his loyal supporter, the Mackintosh Chief, Captain of Clan Chattan. This grant proved a cause of trouble for several centuries. Like the MacGregors further south, the Macdonalds resisted the Mackintosh's parchment tenure, and continued for the most part to hold their lands by the ancient *coir a glaive*, or right of the sword.

Alastair Carraich's son Angus, the second Keppoch Chief, had two sons, Donald and Alastair. Of these, Donald was slain in 1498 in a battle with the first Appin Chief, Dougal Stewart, and his son John earned the enmity of his clan by an act which the Highlanders invariably regarded as unpardonable. One of his tribe, having committed some offence, fled to him for protection. John, however, weakly handed the man over to the Mackintosh Chief, as Steward of Lochaber. By this act he sealed his own fate. The clan deposed him from the chiefship, and made his cousin and heir-male presumptive, Donald Glas, chief in his place. Ranald, the son of Donald Glas, met a still more tragic fate. Along with the Captain of Clan Cameron he took part, in 1544, in supporting the stout and capable John Moydertach, natural son of the late Chief of Clanranald, in his claim to the chiefship, which had been conferred upon him by his clan, in despite of the weak and unpopular legitimate heir, Ranald Gallda. For a time, while Moydertach was imprisoned by James V., Ranald was placed in possession of the Moidart estates by his mother's people, the Frasers; but on James's death and Moydertach's return, Gallda fled, and his rival, helped by Keppoch and the Camerons, carried fire and sword through the Fraser country. These disorders brought into action the Earl of Huntly, as King's Lieutenant in the North. With a force of the Frasers, Grants, and Mackintoshes, he drove out Moydertach and his raiders, and replaced Ranald Gallda in possession of his estates. On their way back Huntly's forces separated in Glen Spean, and Lovat with 400 men went homewards by the Great Glen. There, at the head of Loch Lochy, he was intercepted by the Macdonalds, and in the terrible battle of Kin-Loch-Lochy, or Blar-naleine, had his force completely cut to pieces, and was slain himself, with his eldest son and the luckless Ranald Gallda. It was in the following year that the Earl of Lennox invaded the West of Scotland in the interest of



Henry VIII., and he found it easy to gain over John Moydertach and his allies. These transactions proved disastrous to Keppoch. In 1546, along with the Captain of Clan Cameron, he was secured by Mackintosh as Deputy Lieutenant and handed over to Huntly, who first imprisoned them at Perth, and afterwards carried them to Elgin, where they were tried and beheaded in 1547.

Ranald's son and successor, Alastair of Keppoch, was mixed up with the affairs of that turbulent chief, Sir James Macdonald of Islay and Kintyre, chief of clan Ian Vor, and last representative of the second son of John of the Isles and the daughter of King Robert II. When Sir James, after trying to burn his father and mother in their house of Askomull in Kintyre, was imprisoned in Edinburgh Castle, he made several attempts to escape. After the first of these he was confined in irons, and in the second attempt the irons severely injured his ankle as he leapt from the wall. At last, however, in 1615, by the help of Alastair of Keppoch and his eldest son, he succeeded in getting away. His estates in Islay had by this time been feued to Sir John Campbell of Cawdor, brother of the Earl of Argyll, and Sir James proceeded to raise his forces to make a last stand against the usurpations of the Campbells, who for centuries had been ousting the ancient House of the Isles from its heritage. In the struggle he was vigorously helped by Keppoch, and the affair caused an immense commotion in the Western Isles. In the end, however, the Earl of Argyll himself was brought from England, whither he had fled, it is said, to escape his creditors. Armed with the King's commission he gathered his forces at Duntroon on Loch Crinan, drove Sir James and his supporters from Islay and Kintyre, and finally secured these territories as Campbell possessions. Keppoch seems to have followed his leader to Spain, and when they were recalled to London and pardoned by King James VI. in 1620 he received a pension of 200 merks, while Sir James got one of 1,000.

Twenty-five years later, during the Civil Wars, the House of Keppoch was very active on the side of King Charles. When the King's general, the Marquess of Montrose, made his astonishing march in the snows of winter to overthrow the pusillanimous Marquess of Argyll at Inverlochy, it was a member of the clan, John MacDonald, the famous Iain Lom, the poet, who guided Montrose's army through the difficult mountain passes. After the death of Montrose the bard of Keppoch composed a lament in his honour.



CAIRN ON CULLODEN MOOR



At a still later day Iain Lom played a dramatic part in another tragic episode in the history of his clan. The tradition runs that a Keppoch Chief, Donald Glas, sent his two sons to France to be educated, and died during their absence. On the return of the lads, Alastair and his brother Ranald, they were barbarously murdered, in September, 1663, by certain members of the clan, who took possession of their land. No one seemed disposed or powerful enough to avenge the crime: only the poet seemed to feel the outrage, and he exerted himself unceasingly to induce some chief to take the matter up. At last he managed to enlist the interest of Glengarry, who had recently been raised to the peerage as Lord MacDonell and Aros. By this chief a body of men was sent to Brae Lochaber, and the murderers were attacked in their dwellings and slain. The sequel is told in the inscription on a curious monument with an apex representing seven human heads which stands near the south-west end of Loch Oich. The inscription runs:—"As a memorial of the ample and summary vengeance which, in the swift course of feudal justice, inflicted by the orders of the Lord McDonell and Aross, overtook the perpetrators of the foul murder of the Keppoch family, a branch of the powerful and illustrious clan of which his lordship was the Chief, this monument is erected by Colonel McDonell of Glengarry, XVII. Mac-Mhic-Alaister, his successor and representative, in the year of our Lord 1812. The heads of the seven murderers were presented at the feet of the noble chief in Glengarry Castle, after having been washed in this spring, and ever since that event, which took place early in the sixteenth century, it has been known by the name of 'Tobar-nan-ceann,' or 'The Well of the Heads.'"

In its chronology the inscription is somewhat astray, as Iain Lom was not born till about 1620. At the Restoration in 1660 he received a pension, and he is sometimes referred to as the poet laureate of Charles II. He was present with the Jacobite army under Dundee at Killiecrankie in 1689, and celebrated the victory of the Highland army on that occasion in a poem, "Rinrory."

Meanwhile the Macdonalds of Keppoch had been making history vigorously in their own way. In 1682 Archibald Macdonald of Keppoch died and was succeeded by his son Coll, then a youth at St. Andrews. After his father's funeral Coll went to Inverness and tried to arrange terms to settle the old difficulties with the Mackintosh Chief. The latter, however, replied by throw-



ing Keppoch into prison, and it took an order from the Privy Council to set him free. After this treatment Keppoch naturally refused to have dealings with Mackintosh, and in the end the latter procured a commission of fire and sword against him. It was in July, 1688, that the Mackintosh Chief, irritated by Keppoch's refusal to pay rent and admit his authority, at last raised his clan, and, accompanied by a body of Government troops under Captain Mackenzie of Suddie, descended upon Brae Lochaber, and encamped on the height of Maol rua', near Keppoch's stronghold. The upshot, however, was far different from what he expected. His force numbered about a thousand men, while Keppoch had his own force increased by the Macdonalds of Glengarry and Glencoe and some Camerons. At dawn on the 4th of August Mackintosh beheld his enemies descending upon him from the ridge above. They charged without shoes, stockings, or bonnets, and did dreadful execution with their swords and Lochaber axes. Suddie was killed and Mackintosh himself taken prisoner, while his banner only escaped by its bearer leaping a chasm over which no one could follow him. The battle of Mulroy, which was the last clan battle in the Highlands, was celebrated with characteristic vigour by Ian Lom.

Mackintosh complained to the Privy Council, which sent two companies of foot and a troop of dragoons into Lochaber to destroy the Macdonalds, "man, woman and child" and burn their houses and corn. The Macdonalds, however, managed to escape to the hills, from which they witnessed the destruction of their homes and crops. In the following year, Mackintosh having refused to join the Jacobite forces under Dundee, Macdonald had the satisfaction of driving off his cattle, and burning his new mansion of Dunachton. For his activity in cattle-raiding for the Jacobite army Dundee nicknamed Keppoch as "Coll of the Cows."

In the interest of King James, Coll threatened Inverness with a force of 800 men, but was drawn off by Dundee, and he led a thousand Highlanders to the battle of Killiecrankie. After the building of Fort William in 1690, however, he saw it to his interest to become reconciled to the law, and he entered into an arrangement with Mackintosh to pay a regular rent for his lands in Lochaber. He still, however, remained loyal to the Jacobite cause, and at the rising of 1715 he joined the Earl of Mar and fought at Sheriffmuir.

It was the son of Coll of the Cows, Alexander



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Macdonald of Keppoch, who played a very notable part in the rising under Prince Charles Edward in 1745. At the Prince's landing he was one of the first of the Highland Chiefs to declare for him, and it was in his country, at the bridge over the Spean, that the first shots of the rising were fired and two companies of Government soldiers taken prisoners. Keppoch himself led three hundred clansmen to the raising of the Prince's standard at Glenfinnan, and having been an officer in the French service he proved of very great value throughout the campaign, till the last onset at Culloden. Since Bannockburn the Macdonalds had claimed the place of honour on the right of the Scottish armies. At Culloden this was denied them, and from their assigned place on the left they refused in consequence to charge. As the critical moment was passing, Keppoch, who was their colonel, uttered the cry, "Have the children of my tribe forsaken me?" and rushing forward himself, sword and pistol in hand, received a bullet through the breast and fell dead.

Following the battle, Lochaber was burned, houses, corn-stacks, and woods, with ruthless barbarity, by the red soldiers under the Duke of Cumberland, and two of the clansmen who went to Fort William to deliver up their arms and avail themselves of the proffered pardon were immediately hanged at a spot still pointed out near the mill. In 1752, however, Keppoch's son, Ranald Og, petitioned for the restoration of his property on the ground that his father had fallen before the passing of attainder. He served in the Fraser Fencibles, each company of which was commanded by a chief, and he distinguished himself very highly at the siege of Quebec. The chiefs remained tenants of the lands of Keppoch till Major Alexander Macdonald had to leave, in consequence of quarrels with Sir Æneas Mackintosh. The representative of the ancient chiefs was afterwards lost sight of in America.

Only less celebrated than Ian Lom was a poetess of the clan, Sheila Macdonald, daughter of Gillespie Mac-Alaistair Buidhe, sixteenth chief, who became the wife of Gordon of Baldornie in Aberdeenshire. In addition to her poetry she was a noted performer on the harp, and is said to have had the gift of improvisation.

### SEPTS OF CLAN MACDONALD OF KEPPOCH

MacGillivantic  
Macglasrich  
MacPhilip  
Ronald

MacGilp  
MacKillop  
Philipson  
Ronaldson

## THE MACDONELLS OF GLENGARRY

**BADGE :** Fraoch gorm (erica vulgaris) common heath.

**SLOGAN :** Craig an fitheach.

**PIBROCH :** Failte Mhic Alastair, Cille chriosd, and Blar Sron.

It is not many years since there lived in an old house with high-walled garden in the heart of Rothesay, two old maiden ladies whose pride and regret were that they were the last in this country of the great old house of the MacDonells of Glengarry. They were women of noble appearance and strong character, and one of them at least took a considerable part in public affairs. Many stories regarding them were told in the town. Among these one may be cited as characteristic. When the late Marquess of Bute, as a young man, called upon them on the eve of his marriage to a daughter of the great Roman Catholic house of Howard, it had become known that he was likely himself to become a member of the Church of Rome. Of this proceeding the Misses MacDonell did not approve, and they took the opportunity to inform him that if he did enter the Roman Communion they would "no longer be able to call at Mount Stuart." Among the treasures which the survivor of them took delight in preserving was a tall shepherd's crook of hazel which had been sent home to her by her nephew, the young Chief of the Clan in Canada. That hazel staff represented the tragedy of the race, for after the death in 1828 of the seventeenth Chief of Glengarry, who is said to have been the model in part of Fergus MacIvor in Sir Walter Scott's *Waverley*, his impoverished successor, gathering together between 500 and 600 of his clansmen, emigrated with them in a body to Canada, where they still perpetuate the traditions of the race which had its headquarters on the lovely shores of Loch Oich in the Great Glen.

On the shore of Loch Oich still stand the ruins of the noble and picturesque ancient stronghold of Invergarry, which was the seat of the chief. Among the many memories of its days of magnificence and hospitality, the last is not the least striking. It was the day of his defeat at Culloden, and Prince Charles Edward was in full flight before the "Red Soldiers" of the Butcher Duke of



MAC DONELL OF GLENGARRY





## THE MACDONELLS OF GLENGARRY 269

Cumberland. Hungry and almost alone he reached Invergarry, and was there entertained to a meal which consisted of a brace of salmon which had been taken from the loch by the forester only an hour or two before. That was the last hospitality which the noble old house of Invergarry was to afford, for a few days afterwards the "Red Soldiers" came ravaging down the loch, making the country of the clans a desert with fire and sword, and by order of the Duke of Cumberland, Invergarry Castle was burned to the ground.

Of the noble old race which had its home here the history is romantic in the extreme. Like the other two great branches of the clan, the MacDonalds of the Isles and of Clanranald, which contest with Glengarry the supreme chiefship of the name, the MacDonells are directly descended from Reginald, the younger son of the famous Somerled, King of the Isles in the twelfth century. Their patronymic of MacDonald they took from Donald, the elder of Reginald's two sons. A common ancestor of all three houses was Donald's grandson, Angus Og, who supported King Robert the Bruce in the Wars of Succession, entertained him in his castle of Dunavertie, at the south end of Kintyre, when he was fleeing for safety to the Island of Rachryn, and on whom in consequence Bruce's grandson, King Robert II., bestowed the territories of Morvern, Ardnamurchan, and Lochaber, forfeited by the Macdougals, descendants of Somerled's elder son, who had sided with Baliol and Comyn against the House of Bruce.

A privilege claimed by all the MacDonalds in common was the right to the post of honour on the right in all Scottish armies on the day of battle. This right, it is said, was conferred upon them by King Robert the Bruce in recognition of the part they played on the field of Bannockburn, and the ignoring of it, they declare, brought about the disastrous issues of the battles of Harlaw and Culloden. On other occasions, as at Prestonpans and Falkirk, when accorded their proper position on the right of the Scottish armies, they performed prodigies of valour.

Angus Og's son, John, first Lord of the Isles, had by his first marriage three sons, John, Godfrey, and Ranald; and it is from the third of these, who inherited Moidart and Glengarry, that the families of Glengarry and Clanranald are descended. John of the Isles, however, repudiated his first wife, married the Princess Margaret, a daughter of King Robert II., and settled the Lordship of the Isles upon his family by her. From her second

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son John are descended the MacDonells, Earls of Antrim, and from her third son Alexander, the MacDonalds of Keppoch. Of her eldest son, Donald of the Isles, who fought the battle of Harlaw, the legitimate line seems to have come to an end with John, fourth and last Lord of the Isles, who died a beggar in Dundee or a monk at Paisley Abbey in 1498; and the later heads of the house of the Isles are descended from John's half brother, Hugh MacDonald of Sleat.<sup>1</sup> From these facts the reader can

<sup>1</sup> In the peerages, Celestine and Hugh, the elder brothers of the last Lord of the Isles are described as illegitimate, but there is room to believe that they may have been the offspring of hand-fast marriages. The evidence on the subject is well recounted in an able work, *MacDonald of the Isles*, by A. M. W. Stirling, published by John Murray, 1913, Appendix I.—“It has been asserted both that Hugh was Alexander's son by his wife Elizabeth Seton, and that his mother was a daughter of Gillepatrick Roy, a descendant of the O'Beolan Earls of Ross. So far as is known, the evidence in either case is not conclusive. Nevertheless, there is every reason to regard him as legitimate. In various charters, both Hugh of Sleat and Celestine of Lochalsh are designed by John, Earl of Ross and Lord of the Isles, simply as “frater,” without any qualifying word, e.g., the charter confirmed by James IV. in 1495 is granted to ‘Carissimo fratri nostro Hugoni Alexandri de Insulis Domino de Slete,’ and one of the witnesses is ‘Celestino de Insulis de Lochalch fratre nostro’ (Reg. Mag. Sig., Vol. xiii., No. 186). A contrary opinion was at one time expressed in consequence of Hugh and Celestine being designed by John, Earl of Ross and Lord of the Isles, in a charter granted in 1470, as ‘fratribus carnalibus.’ But a fuller knowledge of ancient writs has rendered any such inference of little or no value. *Carnalis*, it is now well known, is frequently applied to persons whose legitimacy is not open to question. A curious instance of the application of this word even to a brother uterine may be noted.

“After the death of James I. of Scotland his widow, Joanna Beaufort (daughter of the Earl of Somerset), was married in 1439 to Sir James Stewart, known as the Black Knight of Lorn. They had three sons who were: (1) John; (2) James, afterwards Earl of Buchan; (3) Andrew, who became Bishop of Moray. These three were thus half-brothers to King James II. of Scotland. The eldest, John, who was created Earl of Atholl on 25th March, 1459-60, received a charter of Balvany from King James II., ‘fratri suo Johanni Stewart comiti Atholæ.’ Here it will be seen, he is simply styled *frater*. On 18th March, 1481-82, in a re-grant of the Earldom of Atholl from King James III., he is designed ‘frater carnalis’ (not of the blood royal) quondam progenitoris sui Jacobi secundi.’

“The position, so far as is known, seems to be fairly stated by Donald Gregory, in his *History of the Western Highlands and Isles of Scotland* (1881 Ed., Vol. ii., pp. 40-1), as follows: ‘By his Countess, Elizabeth, daughter of Alexander Seton, Lord of Gordon and Huntly, Alexander, Earl of Ross and Lord of the Isles, had issue, John, his successor. He had likewise two other legitimate sons (but whether by the same mother or not is



judge for himself of the justice of the claims made by the heads of the three houses, of the Isles, Glengarry, and Clanranald, to be supreme chief of the MacDonalds.

By way of evidence that their house was regarded as the head of the great MacDonald race, the Glengarry family cite many facts. Among these is the circumstance that in 1587, when the Scottish Parliament passed an Act for the keeping of the peace in the Highlands, MacDonald of Glengarry and Knoidart was made responsible for the peaceable behaviour of those of his name.

For a time Glengarry was regarded as the deer forest belonging to the royal castle of Inverlochy, and the MacDonalds held as royal tenants, but they afterwards obtained a crown charter. In the year of Flodden they took part with MacDonald of Lochalsh in an attack on the royal castle of Urquhart, on Loch Ness.

This connection led to one of the fiercest of the Highland feuds. Alexander MacDonald, sixth Chief of Glengarry, married Margaret, daughter of Sir Donald of Lochalsh, and when the latter died in 1519 he left half of his estate, Lochalsh, Loch Carron, and Attadale, with Strome Castle, to the pair. The other half was purchased by Mackenzie of Kintail. Soon the two were at each other's throats. Mackenzie's forester in Glen Affaric killed a MacDonald poacher. The MacDonalds in return murdered the brother of Fionnla Dubh of Gairloch. The Mackenzies next trapped Glengarry himself at Kishorn, slew his followers in cold blood, and seized his castle of Strome. His uncles also were murdered with all their

uncertain), Celestine, Lord of Lochalche, and Hugh, Lord of Sleat'—and he adds in a footnote: 'I call these sons legitimate, notwithstanding that Celestine is called "*Filius naturalis*" by Earl Alexander (Ch. in Ch. Chest of Macintosh, 1447) and "*frater carnalis*" by Earl John (Reg. of Great Seal, vi., 116, 1463), etc., etc. They are, however, both called "*frater*" without any qualification by Earl John (Reg. of Great Seal, vi., 116; xiii., 186). The history of Celestine and Hugh and their descendants . . . sufficiently shows that they were considered legitimate, and that consequently the words "*naturalis*" and "*carnalis*" taken by themselves, and without the adjunct "*bastardus*," do not necessarily imply bastardy. It is probable that they were used to designate the issue of those handfast or left-handed marriages which appear to have been so common in the Highlands and Isles. Both "*naturalis*" and "*carnalis*" are occasionally applied to individuals known to be legitimate in the strictest sense of the word. . . .'

"A further question which might have been of importance, viz., as to the respective seniority of Hugh and Celestine, has now only an academic interest, through the extinction in the male line of the family of Lochalsh."

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people except two sons. Glengarry was released by the Privy Council, but the sons of his uncles grew up to waste Applecross with fire and sword, while Glengarry's own son, Angus Og, harried Kintail, killed every man, woman, and child he could find, and drove a great spoil south to Glengarry. Mackenzie in return procured a commission of fire and sword, and with seventeen hundred men harried the MacDonald territory as far as Moray, and drove away the greatest spoil ever seen in the Highlands. Angus Og retaliated by ravaging Glenshiel and Letterfearn as far as Loch Duich, while his cousins again burned Applecross. During the raid one of them, forsaken by his followers, set his back to a rock and defended himself magnificently till a Mackenzie, climbing the rock, hurled a boulder on his head. The feud came to an end with two of the most famous incidents in Highland history. In November, 1602, Angus Og with seventeen birlinns set out to harry Loch Carron. As he returned, in passing through Kyle Akin he was attacked by a Mackenzie galley sent out from Eileandonan by the heroic Lady of Kintail, his birlinn struck a rock and capsized, and all his sixty warriors, with Angus Dubh himself, were slain. The final event took place in the following year, when the MacDonalds invaded Easter Ross, burned the church of Kilchrist with a party of Mackenzies inside, while their pipers marched round the blazing pile playing the tune which became the pibroch of the clan. But the lands of Loch Carron and Lochalsh were lost to Glengarry.

Æneas the ninth Chief was out with Montrose in 1645 and for his pains had his new house of Invergarry burned by General Monk; but was afterwards compensated by Charles II. who made him Lord MacDonell and Aros. A notable figure in the campaign was Ian Lom, the famous bard of the house of Keppoch. At the battle of Inverlochy, in which the forces of Argyll were utterly defeated and cut to pieces by the Royalist clansmen under Montrose, Ian Lom placed himself on the battlements of the old castle to stimulate the royalist clansmen and witness the incidents which he was afterwards to weave into stirring verse. After the death of Montrose he composed a lament in his honour. At the Restoration he became a sort of Highland poet laureate, and was pensioned by Government. He lived to be present at the battle of Killiecrankie in 1689, and to celebrate the triumph of the Highlanders in his poem, "Rinrory." But perhaps the most striking episode in his career was that which brought him into direct touch





THE WELL OF THE HEADS, NEAR INVERGARRY,  
ON LOCH OICH



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with the Glengarry Chief. The incident has already been recounted in the article on the MacDonalds of Keppoch.

In 1672, as Chief of the MacDonalds, Lord MacDonell and Aros was ordained to find caution for the good behaviour of "the whole name and clan." He died without issue in 1682, and the title accordingly became extinct. At a later day, "James VIII.," the Old Chevalier, granted a warrant for the restoration of the peerage, but as he never became king *de facto*, this did not take effect. Only, since the date of the peerage the family has adopted MacDonell as the spelling of its name.

Lord MacDonell and Aros was succeeded as chief by his cousin, Ranald of Scotas. At the revolution in 1689, as befitted the tradition of his family, the next chief, Alastair Dubh MacRanald, took the side of the Stewarts, and commanded the clan at Killiecrankie. Lord Macaulay in his History describes how "at the head of one large battalion towered the stately form of Glengarry, who bore in his hand the Royal Standard of James VII." Later he was seen mowing down two men at every stroke of his broad sword. On that occasion the Chief's brother, Donald Gorm, performed heroic deeds, and, when attacked by an overwhelming number of the red-coated soldiers, he continued to catch their pikeheads in his target, and hew off the poles, till at last he fell, when no fewer than twelve pikeheads were found fixed in his buckler.

Glengarry himself afterwards reluctantly took the oath of allegiance to William III. in 1691, and when that monarch and his successor, Queen Anne, had passed away, the chief might have continued in allegiance to George I. As a matter of fact, his name appeared first among the signatures to the loyal address of the Highland chiefs, which was presented by the Earl of Mar to the new king when he landed at Greenwich in 1714. But King George slighted the document, and turned his back on the Earl. The latter, thereupon, scenting danger to himself, fled disguised in a coaling vessel to the north, and called the great meeting of the chiefs which became known as the "Hunting of Mar." At the meeting at Braemar, Glengarry attended to ascertain the Earl's plans, and let him know what the Highlanders were prepared to do for King James. At that time the clan could furnish 800 fighting men, and Glengarry led them throughout the campaign and fought at Sheriffmuir. For this he had his house burned down, and was so reduced that he had to let his woods to an English company for iron smelting. He was

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afterwards, in 1720, appointed a trustee for managing the Chevalier's affairs in Scotland, and he died in 1724.

At the time of Prince Charles Edward's landing in 1745 the head of the clan was one of the most ardent supporters of the Stewart cause. It was at Invergarry that Prince Charles lay and gathered his forces on the night before setting out to encounter General Cope at Corryarrack, and it was here, as we have seen, that on the night after Culloden the Prince enjoyed his first substantial meal, and for the political opinions and active services of the chief, the house was presently given to the flames.

At Falkirk Angus MacDonald, the Chief's second son, who led his clansmen, was killed by the accidental discharge of a musket, and the incident is said to have so discouraged the clansmen that they did not regain their native spirit. At Culloden, as already mentioned, the MacDonalds were not appointed to their usual place of honour on the right, and in consequence stood sullenly aloof when the Highland army was ordered to charge. Their leader, MacDonald of Keppoch, advancing alone, fell with the bitter words on his lips, "Have the children of my tribe forsaken me?" and MacDonell of Scotas, who was reckoned the bravest man of the clan in the Prince's army, and had fifty men under his command, fell with his lieutenant, ensign, sergeant, corporal, and eighteen privates.

A very different personage was his elder son, Alastair Ruadh, who was to succeed as thirteenth Chief of Glengarry nine years later. This is the individual who remained known to posterity by the unenviable name of "Pickle, the Spy." Like Murray of Broughton, who was the Prince's secretary, he lies under the suspicion of having played a double part from first to last. In 1738, when he was perhaps thirteen years of age, the estates being heavily burdened and the free income only £330 sterling, he went to France, and in 1743 he joined Lord Drummond's regiment of Royal Scots Guards in the French service. Before the landing of Prince Charles Edward in Scotland in 1745, he was employed by the Highland chiefs on a secret mission to the Prince. He was, however, captured by the English, and imprisoned in the Tower of London from 1745 till 1747. Finally, from 1749 till 1754, when he succeeded as Chief of the Clan, he acted, under the pseudonym of "Pickle," as a spy on the Prince. The whole history of his exploits was in recent years brought to light in a volume by the late





*Photo, W. Ritchie & Sons, Ltd.*

INVERGARRY CASTLE, LOCH OICH  
BURNED BY THE DUKE OF CUMBERLAND AFTER CULLODEN



Andrew Lang, under the title of "Pickle, the Spy." Alastair Ruadh was one of the most polished men of his time, in outward appearance one of the most chivalrous, and in reality perhaps the most unscrupulous. He was probably the original of Stevenson's "Master of Ballantrae."

At the time of the latest Jacobite rebellion the clan was reckoned to be 700 strong.

Duncan, the next chief, restored the family fortunes by marrying an heiress and introducing sheep-farming on his estates, but his policy led to the emigration of large numbers of his clansmen. From £700 per annum in 1761 his rental rose to £5,000 before the end of the century.

Not the least notable of the long line of Glengarry chiefs was his son, the last who retained a footing in the Highlands, Alexander Ranaldson MacDonell. A colonel, and major of the Glengarry Fencibles, he was an enthusiastic upholder of the old Highland games, and gave prizes yearly to the winners at the great sports at Inverness and Fort William. He set much store upon keeping up the historic memories and feudal splendours of his house. It was he who set up the monument at the Well of the Heads in 1812, his own name being inserted upon it as "Colonel M'Donell of Glengarry, XVII. Mac-mhic-Alaister." When Gustavus, eldest son of the King of Sweden, deposed in 1809, during his education in Edinburgh, made an excursion to the district, "Glengarry awaited the Prince's arrival at the boundary of his property with a numerous following in full Highland garb, with bagpipes, broadswords, and targets, and a barrel of whisky." Likewise, when George IV. paid his visit to Edinburgh in 1822, Glengarry took a body of his clansmen to the city, where they excited the wonder and admiration of the people. In his youth he had killed in a duel a young officer who at a county ball was a rival for the hand of Miss Forbes of Culloden, and later in life he picked a quarrel with a doctor at Fort Augustus who in consequence was severely mauled by his henchman. For this he was fined £2,000. The Chief made a point of maintaining the dress and style of living of his ancestors. He travelled with the Luchd-crios, or body-guard, and when he took up his quarters at any house these were posted as sentinels with military regularity. His death, alas! was tragic. The steamer *Stirling Castle*, in which he was a passenger on a day in 1828, having run ashore opposite Fort William in Loch Linnhe, the Chief with rash impetuosity leaped overboard, and was killed instantly

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on a rock. His brother, Sir James MacDonell, who died in 1857, was a distinguished soldier in the Napoleonic Wars. After fighting in Naples, Sicily, and Egypt, he took part at the Peninsula, and was engaged at Waterloo. He afterwards commanded in Canada for three years, became a general in 1854, and G.C.B. in 1855.

The lavishness of the seventeenth chief, Alexander Ranaldson, however, left his son and successor in serious difficulties, and, in 1828, the estate was sold to the Marquess of Huntly, from whom it passed successively to the Earl of Dudley and to Honourable Edward Ellice. The Knoydart portion was sold in 1853 to James Baird of Cambusdom.

Meanwhile, as already mentioned, the Chief transferred himself with a large body of his clan to Upper Canada. For this enterprise the way had been prepared by a very notable personage and member of the tribe, Alexander MacDonell, first Roman Catholic Bishop of Upper Canada. Educated at the Scots College at Valladolid, and ordained in 1777, this individual, while a mission priest in his native district, helped to embody the clansmen into the first Glengarry Fencibles, and when the regiment was disbanded in 1801 he obtained for the men a grant of land in Canada. There he again raised a regiment of Glengarry Fencibles, which was of much service in Upper Canada during the war with the United States in 1812. He himself organised the colony, and carried on valuable missionary work there, being made Vicar Apostolic of Upper Canada in 1819, and Bishop of Regiopolis or Kingston in 1826. He lived to see the young Chief come over with the body of his clan, and at his death in 1840 was buried in his own Cathedral at Kingston.

The British public has of late been reminded of the existence of this colony of pure-blooded Scottish Highlanders in Canada by the appearance of a series of stories of Canadian life, of which the first and principal was "The Man from Glengarry."

During the great war of 1914 not a few of the Canadian Highlanders, who so magnificently played their part in the conflict, paid a visit to the ancient stronghold of the MacDonells on Loch Oich, to view for themselves the scene amid which the chiefs who prided themselves in the name of Mac-Mhic-Alaister lived in feudal state, and to stand on the rocky headland of Creagan Nam Fitheach, whose name was the slogan of the clan.



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With the death of Charles Ranaldson MacDonell, the eighteenth Chief, in 1868, the line of the notorious Alastair Ruadh (Pickle the Spy) came to an end. The successor to the chiefship was Æneas Ranald MacDonell of Scotas, descendant of the brave MacDonell of Scotas who fell at Culloden, and himself great-grandfather of the present Chief, British Vice-Consul at Baku in Russia.

### SEPTS OF CLAN MACDONELL OF GLENGARRY

Alexander  
Sanderson

## CLAN MACDOUGAL

BADGE : Fraoch dearg (tetralix) bell-heather.

SLOGAN : Buaidh no Bàs.

PIBROCH : Moladh móraig.

No Highland clan has a history of more striking changes than that of the MacDougals. While the chiefs of the name were at one time sovereign princes in the Western Isles, their representative to-day is a private gentleman of moderate estate, and the race which once made treaties and fought battles with the kings of Scotland is now content to play a modest part as private citizens and loyal subjects of the British Empire.

The early ancestor of the race was the mighty Somerled, Thane of Argyll and Lord of the Isles, in the middle of the twelfth century. Somerled was practically an independent sovereign, or, if he owed allegiance at all, it was to the King of Norway and not to the King of Scots. During the reign of Malcolm IV. he made several descents upon the Western Lowlands, and about the year 1157 made peace with that king upon the terms of an independent prince. It was the time when the possession of this north country still hung in the balance between the Norse and the Scottish races. David I. of Scotland, known to us by his descendant's epigram as the "sair sanct for the croun," had laid far-sighted plans which were in the end to decide the issue in favour of the Scots. He had planted the threatened parts of his kingdom full with feudal knights, and in particular had settled the Stewarts at Renfrew for the purpose of blocking the waterway of the Clyde against the threatened Norse invasion. The Stewarts had carried the war into the enemy's country, conquering Cowal and Bute, and being made Lords of these regions in consequence by Malcolm IV. By way of thanksgiving, it would appear, they had in 1163 founded the priory, now the Abbey of Paisley, when in the following year, with a view to turning the tables, Somerled sailed up the Clyde with a great fleet to attack them in their own territory. The attack failed. Somerled and his son, Colin, were slain, and another chapter in the great strife was ended.



MAC DOUGALL





Somerled left two ultimately surviving sons. To the younger, Reginald, fell the Lordship of the Isles, held for centuries by his descendants, the MacDonalds; to the elder, Dugal, fell Somerled's possessions on the mainland, and from him were descended the powerful Lords of Argyll and Lorne. Somerled's wife was a daughter of Olaf, King of Man, and it is just possible that the present last remaining seat of the MacDougals, Dunolly, which is, of course, "the fort of Olaf," may take its name from this fact.

A century and a half after the days of Somerled the MacDougal Lords of Argyll and Lorne were probably the most powerful family in the West. Alastair or Alexander of Argyll had married the third daughter of John, the Red Comyn, and, after the tragic death of King Alexander III., was a stout supporter of the claims of his father-in-law to the throne of Scotland. The episode at the Church of the Minorites in Dumfries, when Robert the Bruce stabbed the Red Comyn, made the MacDougals most bitter enemies of that king. Again and again Alastair of Argyll and his son, John of Lorne, came within a stroke of achieving their purpose, and overthrowing and slaying the king. Shortly after Bruce's first defeat at Methven, the little Royal army was wandering among the western mountains when, at Dalrigh near Tyndrum, it was suddenly attacked by John of Lorne with a powerful following, and forced to retreat. John Barbour, the poetic historian of the Bruce, tells how the king was guarding the rear of his retreating company when, as he passed through a narrow way between the river and the hill, three of the MacDougal clansmen made a special effort to capture him. One seized his bridle, but the king dealt him a stroke that severed his shoulder and arm. Another thrust his hand between the king's foot and stirrup, hoping to drag him from the saddle; but the king, feeling the hand there, stood firmly up and struck his spur into the steed, so that it dashed forward and the man lost his footing. At that moment the third assailant leapt from the steep hillside upon the horse behind Bruce, and tried to garrotte the king. Bruce, however, bent suddenly forward, pitching this man over his head, and cleft his skull with his sword. Then he slew the man at his stirrup with a third stroke. Though he had slain his assailants, however, Bruce was not free, for one of them held the king's plaid in his death grip, and it was only by undoing his brooch and letting the plaid go that Bruce got rid of his burden. This brooch, known as the brooch of Lorne, remains in possession of the MacDougals to the present day, and is

the last tangible evidence of the ancient greatness of their house.

More than once afterwards John of Lorne came within reach of slaying or capturing the king. On one of those memorable occasions he pursued him with a blood-hound. Bruce endeavoured to escape by dividing his forces again and again, but on each occasion the hound followed the party containing the king, and at last Bruce, left alone with his foster-brother, seemed on the point of being taken, when he remembered the device of wading a bowshot down a running stream, thus throwing the hound off the scent, and so escaped.

But the king's turn came at last. After his return from Rachryn, his victory at Loudon Hill, and his taking of Perth, he made a special incursion into the West to avenge the hurt, hatred, and cruelty he had suffered from John of Lorne. The latter waited his coming in the steep, narrow defile between Loch Awe and Loch Etive known as the Pass of Awe. It was a difficult place, so narrow that two men could not ride abreast, with Ben Cruachan towering above and the river pools boiling below. Here Lorne made an ambush, but he was out-generalled by the king. The latter sent the Lord of Douglas with Sir Alexander Fraser, William Wiseman, and Sir Andrew Grey, higher along the hillside, and the battle had not long joined when a shower of arrows from this outflanking party above took MacDougal's forces in the rear. They were compelled to retreat, and, crossing the Bridge of Awe, were slain in large numbers at a spot still marked by their funeral cairns. Bruce then captured Dunstaffnage, the ancient Royal Scottish stronghold, which had been MacDougal's chief seat, and proceeded to lay the country waste; whereupon Alastair of Argyll surrendered and was received into favour. But John of Lorne remained a rebel, and after Bannockburn, when Bruce sailed into the Western Isles, "None refused him obedience except only John of Lorne." Very soon afterwards, however, he was captured and imprisoned, first at Dunbarton and afterwards in Loch Leven Castle. After the death of Bruce, strangely enough, he was restored to liberty and his estates, and married a granddaughter of the king. When war broke out again in the days of Bruce's son, and Edward Baliol overran the country, the MacDougals took the Baliol side. This was again the losing side, and in consequence the MacDougals lost a large part of their estates, which from that time passed more and more into the hands of the Campbells.

The last MacDougal Lord of Lorne was Ewen. He



*Photo, J. J. Forsyth.*

DUNSTAFFNAGE CASTLE, CHIEF STRONGHOLD OF THE MACDOUGALLS,  
LORDS OF ARGYLL AND LORNE





left two heiresses, who became the wives of John Stewart of Invermeath, now Invermay, near Perth, and his brother Robert. Those Stewarts were descendants of Sir John Stewart of Bonkyl, who fell at the battle of Falkirk, and was a son of the High Steward of that time. Robert Stewart, the younger of the two, made a bargain with his brother John by which John obtained the whole Lordship of Lorne while Robert secured the entire family patrimony of Invermeath. From John Stewart and his MacDougal wife, accordingly descended all the Stewart Lords of Lorne, the Stewart Earls of Athol, and the Stewarts of Appin.

The only part of the MacDougal Lordship of Lorne which did not pass to the Stewarts was Dunolly Castle, with its dependent lands, which belonged to the MacDougals of Dunolly, the next cadet branch, descended from Allan, son of John, brother of Ewen, last of the elder line, already mentioned; and upon these MacDougals of Dunolly the chiefship of the clan devolved.

The MacDougals continued to hold these decreased possessions in more or less security till the time of the Civil Wars in 1645. Meanwhile the Campbells, whose first fortunes had been founded upon the downfall of the earlier house, had continued to grow in power steadily from century to century. At length, in 1645, the Campbell chief, now Marquess of Argyll, found himself at the head of the Government as the representative of the party of the Covenant in Scotland. For a few brilliant months his Royalist rival, the Marquess of Montrose, by a rapid succession of victories for the cause of Charles I., threatened to shake his power, but the battle of Philiphaugh practically ended his career and quenched the hopes of the Royalists in Scotland. Then Argyll, finding himself supreme, proceeded to turn the opportunity to account by destroying the last relics of greatness possessed by the families his own had supplanted. The army of the Covenant was sent first to destroy the MacDonald stronghold of Dunavertie in Kintyre, where three hundred of the garrison were slain. The Lamonts of Cowal were attacked, carried to Dunoon, and butchered bloodily to the number of some two hundred and thirty. And General Leslie was sent to attack and destroy the remaining MacDougal strongholds of Gylen on the Island of Kerrera, and of Dunolly on the northern horn of Oban Bay. This last commission was duly carried out, the castles were destroyed never to be restored, and the Brooch of Lorne, last sign of former MacDougal greatness, mysteriously disappeared.

The MacDougals suffered again in 1715, when, as Sir

Walter Scott puts it in a note to *The Lord of the Isles*, "their representative incurred the penalty of forfeiture for his accession to the insurrection of that period, thus losing the remains of his inheritance to replace upon the throne the descendants of those princes whose accession his ancestors had opposed at the expense of their feudal grandeur." At that time the strength of the clan is said to have been five hundred fighting men, though, according to President Forbes' report, it was reduced thirty years later to two hundred.

The chapter of the family history which followed is as romantic as anything in the memory of the Highlands. The head of the family fled to France, and his son would have been destitute had it not been for a member of the clan, at that time keeper of a public house in Dunbarton, who took the young chief into his house, and maintained and educated him till his sixteenth year. The lad proved clever and intelligent, and turned whatever advantages he possessed to good account. When the Jacobite rising of 1745 was afoot it was expected that Prince Charles Edward would land near Oban. Instead, as is well known, he disembarked at Lochnanuagh in Arisaig. Word of his landing was sent to MacDougal by Stewart of Appin, and MacDougal ordered his brother to have the clan ready to rise while he himself went to consult the Chamberlain of the Earl of Breadalbane. This individual threw cold water on the enterprise, pointing out that Charles had not kept his promise either as to his place of landing or in the matter of bringing forces to support his cause. MacDougal then proceeded to interview the Duke of Argyll at Rosneath. While awaiting the interview there he saw a horseman arrive at full gallop. Shortly afterwards the Duke, entering the apartment, map in hand, asked MacDougal to point out Lochnanuagh. MacDougal quickly perceived that the secret was known, and seized the opportunity of being the first to give details. By the Duke's advice he took no part in the rising, and his reward was the restoration of the estate of Dunolly, which his father had lost.

Such was the story told by a relation of the family at Dunstaffnage to Sir Walter Scott when he visited the neighbourhood in 1814.

The MacDougal who had the estate restored lived to a great age, and it was his son who was in possession at the time of Scott's visit. MacDougal had just then lost his eldest son, who had fallen fighting under Wellington in Spain. The second son was then a lieutenant in the Royal Navy, and it was to him at a later day that the Brooch of



THE MOUTH OF LOCH ETIVE. OPPOSITE IS BENDERLOCH,  
THE OSSIAN COUNTRY





Lorne was restored with much ceremony by Campbell of Lochnell. On the occasion the Duke of Argyll himself was present, and everything in the way of courtesy was done to show that the ancient feud between the houses had at last come to an end.

When Queen Victoria sailed along Loch Tay after enjoying the resplendent hospitality of Taymouth Castle in 1842, Captain MacDougal acted as the steersman of the Royal barge. It was pointed out to the Queen that he was wearing on his shoulder the famous Brooch of Lorne, and at Her Majesty's request it was handed to her and examined with the utmost interest. On the occasion of the Scottish Historical Exhibition at Glasgow in 1911 the brooch was lent for exhibition, and a copy of it in gold, half the size of the original, was made and presented to Her Royal Highness the Duchess of Connaught, who accompanied the Duke on the occasion of his opening the Exhibition. Along with other interesting relics the Brooch of Lorne is still cherished by MacDougal in the quiet mansion-house behind the ruin of Dunolly Castle, which is now the seat of the chief.

The principal cadet of the family was MacDougal of Rara, who is believed to have been represented later by MacDougal of Ardencaple. Other cadets are the families of Gallanach and Soroba, both close by Oban, the former having been represented by the late Sir James Patten MacDougal, K.C.B., deputy clerk register, and Keeper of the Records of Scotland, who assumed the name MacDougal in 1891 on succeeding his brother in possession of the Gallanach estate.

#### SEPTS OF CLAN MACDOUGAL

Conacher  
Dougall  
MacConacher  
MacCulloch  
MacDowell  
MacHowell  
MacLucas  
MacLulich

Cowan  
Dowall  
MacCoul  
MacDowall  
MacDulothe  
MacKichan  
MacLugash

## CLAN MACDUFF

BADGE: Lus nam braoileag (vaccineum vitis idea) red whortle berry.

PIBROCH: Cu 'a Mhic Dhu.

ANDRO of Wyntoun, in his famous chronicle, tells the story of the circumstances in which the early chief of this clan rose to note and power. It was in the middle of the eleventh century, when Macbeth, one of the greatest Scottish kings, afterwards to be so sadly defamed by Shakespeare, was in the seventeenth year of his reign. Macbeth, like the later James I., had made "the key keep the castle, and the bush the cow" throughout Scotland. As Wyntoun put it,

All hys tyme wes gret plente  
Abowndand bath in land and se.  
He wes in justice rycht lawchfull,  
And till hys legis all awfull.

As was to happen afterwards in the case of James I., however, Macbeth's strictness of rule and justice of government made him many enemies among the nobles of his realm, who found themselves subject to law equally with the humblest peasant. In the end it was the king's insistence on fair play which brought about his downfall. The chronicler tells how Macbeth was building his great new castle, of which the traces are still to be seen, on the little mount of Dunsinnan in the Sidlaws. For this work of national importance the lieges had to furnish teams and working parties. As he watched the building, Macbeth one day saw one of the teams of oxen engaged in drawing timber fail at its work. On inquiry he was told that the inferior oxen had been furnished by Macduff, Thane of Fife, and with indignation he threatened to put the Thane's own neck into the yoke and make him draw. Macduff knew that the king was apt to be as good as his word, and he forthwith fled. He went first to his castle of Kennachy, then took boat across the Firth of Forth from the spot still known from that circumstance as Earlsferry. At Kennachy his wife, who seems to have been of stouter



MAC DUFF





heart than her husband, kept the pursuing king in treaty till she saw Macduff's boat safely reach the middle of the Firth. From this occurrence arose the rule down to a recent period that any fugitive taking boat at Earlsferry was protected from pursuit till he had made his way half-way across the Firth. Macduff fled to the court of Siward, Earl of Northumbria, where he represented to Macbeth's cousins, sons of the late Duncan, King of Scots, that the time was ripe for them to secure possession of their father's throne. Duncan's legitimate sons held back, knowing that they were Macbeth's natural heirs, who must shortly succeed to the crown without effort. But an illegitimate prince, Malcolm, son of King Duncan and the miller's daughter at Forteviot, saw his opportunity, and seized it. All the world knows how, helped by Siward and guided by Macduff, he invaded Scotland, drove Macbeth from Dunsinnan to Lumphanan on Deeside, and finally slew him there. Afterwards, Malcolm III. being firmly seated on his throne, Macduff asked, for his services, three special boons: first, that in all time coming his descendants should have the privilege at royal coronations of leading the king to the coronation chair; second, that, when the kings of Scots made war, the Thanes of Fife should have the honour of commanding the vanguard; and third, that if the Thane or his kindred to the ninth degree should slay a man he should be entitled to remission on payment of a fine, twenty-four merks for a gentleman and twelve for a yeoman, while if anyone slew a kinsman of the Thane he should be entitled to no such relief. As a result of this last boon, as late as 1421 three gentlemen in Fife who could claim kin with Macduff obtained a remission for the slaughter of Melville of Glenbervie upon payment of the stipulated fine. A more famous occasion on which the Boon of Macduff came into play was at the coronation of King Robert the Bruce. Duncan, the Earl of Fife of that time, had married Mary de Monthermer, niece of Edward I. of England, and was upon the English side, acting as Governor of Perth. His sister Isabella, however, who had married John Comyn, Earl of Buchan, was an ardent Scottish patriot, and at Scone in 1306 exercised the right of her house, and brought the sanction of ancient usage to the ceremony, by leading Bruce to the place of coronation. Both the Thane and his sister suffered from the contrasting parts they played. Falling into the hands of the English, the Countess of Buchan was imprisoned by Edward I. in a cage on the walls of Berwick, while Earl Duncan and his wife were captured

by Bruce and imprisoned in the castle of Kildrummie in Aberdeenshire, where the Earl died in 1336.

Gilmichael, fourth Earl of Fife, who died in 1139, left two sons, of whom the elder, Duncan, carried on the line, while Hugo the younger, became ancestor of the house of Wemyss, which now probably represents the early thanes and earls of Fife.

Duncan, twelfth Earl of Fife, who was killed in 1353, was the last of the direct line of these early thanes. His daughter Isabella, who died without issue, conveyed the property and title of the earldom to the third son of King Robert II., who afterwards became notorious in Scottish history as the first Duke of Albany. During the Duke's lifetime the title of Earl of Fife was borne by his son Murdoch, and upon the execution and forfeiture of this Murdoch, Duke of Albany, by his cousin James I. in 1425, the earldom at last became extinct.

The name Duff is believed to be the Celtic Dubh, which was given as a descriptive name to any Highlander who might be dark-complexioned, like Sir Walter Scott's famous character, Roderick Dhu. The numerous families of Duff, therefore, who afterwards appeared as respectable burgesses of Aberdeen and Inverness, may not all have been descended from the original stock of the Thanes of Fife.

The family of the name which was afterwards to attain most consequence had for its founder a certain Adam Duff, tenant in Cluny Beg. One of the two sons of this farmer, another Adam Duff, born about 1598, by his remarkable shrewdness and sagacity, laid the foundation of the future greatness of his house. In the wars of Montrose and the Covenanters, he took part on the Royalist side, and was ~~and~~ in consequence; but he died between 1674 and 1677 in possession of considerable wealth. His eldest son, Alexander Duff, took advantage of the great depression which prevailed in the country just before the Union with England, and purchased the lands of many of the old lairds in Banffshire and Aberdeenshire. Among the lands which he obtained on wadset or mortgage, and which the proprietors were never able to redeem, was Keithmore, a possession of the Huntly family, from which he took his designation as Alexander Duff of Keithmore. He also further advanced the family fortunes by marrying Helen, daughter of Grant of Ballentomb, ancestor of the lairds of Monymusk. This lady's prudence and industry, not less than her wealth, went far to raise the fortunes of the family. The eldest son of the pair, again, Alexander Duff of Braco,



continued to add to the family estates, which now included Aberlour, Keith-Grange, and Mortlach. At the time of the union he was Member of Parliament for Banffshire. He and his son, William Duff of Braco, were men of great importance in their district. Among other events in which they were concerned was the arrest in romantic circumstances of the cateran James MacPherson.

William Duff, however, died without surviving male issue, and the family estates passed to his uncle, another of the same name. This individual had already acquired immense wealth as a merchant in Inverness. According to Cosmo Innes, in *Sketches of Early Scottish History*, "he was a man of very general dealings—large and small. He could take charge of a commission for groceries, or advance the price of a barony, on good security. He had formed extensive connections, and was the first man in the north who dealt in money on a large scale, and he laid the foundation of a very noble fortune." This highly successful merchant acquired large estates in Morayshire, including Dipple and Pluscardine, and was known as William Duff of Dipple. On the death of his nephew, William Duff of Braco, in 1718, the older family estates also, as already mentioned, came into his possession, and when he died himself in 1722 he left his eldest son the landed proprietor with the largest rent-roll in the north of Scotland £6,500 sterling all clear.

As a result that son, still another William Duff "of Braco and Dipple," was M.P. for Banffshire from 1727 to 1734. In the following year he was made Baron Braco of Kilbride in the peerage of Ireland, and twenty-four years later was raised to be Viscount Macduff and Earl Fife in that same peerage. He continued the policy of his family by purchasing further large estates in the counties of Aberdeen, Banff, and Moray, and managed all his possessions with much care and ability. Two years after his father's death he rebuilt the castle of Balveny, and between 1740 and 1745 he built the splendid mansion of Duff House at a cost of £70,000. During the Jacobite rebellion in 1745 he joined the Duke of Cumberland, and offered the Government his free services in any way that might be desired. By his first wife, a daughter of the Earl of Findlater and Seafield, he had no children, but he married again, a daughter of Grant of Grant, and two of his sons in succession inherited the earldom.

James, the elder of these, was Member of Parliament successively for Banff and Elgin, and was made a peer of the United Kingdom as Baron Fife in 1790. By careful



purchase he nearly doubled the size of the family estates, and he changed the name of the town of Doune, where Duff House was situated, to Macduff, procuring for the place at the same time a royal charter as a burgh. He married the only child of the ninth Earl of Caithness, but died without male issue, when his peerage of the United Kingdom of course expired. His brother Alexander, who succeeded as third Earl in 1809, married a daughter of Skene of Skene, and in consequence his son James, who became the fourth Earl, succeeded to the estates of Skene and Cariston in 1827. This Earl distinguished himself during the Peninsular War. He volunteered his services, became a Major-General in the Spanish army fighting against Napoleon, and was twice wounded, at the battle of Talavera and at the storming of Fort Matagorda near Cadiz. In consequence, he was made a Knight of the Order of St. Ferdinand of Spain and of the Sword of Sweden. He was also made a Knight of the Thistle and G.C.H., and in 1827 was made a peer of the United Kingdom as Baron Fife. In private life he was notable as an art collector, and the towns of Elgin, Banff, and Macduff owed much to his generosity. He died, however, without issue, and was succeeded by James, son of his brother, Sir Alexander Duff of Delgaty Castle, as fifth Earl. This Earl's wife was a daughter of the seventeenth Earl of Errol and Lady Elizabeth Fitz Clarence, daughter of King William IV. He was Lord-Lieutenant of Banffshire, and was made a peer of the United Kingdom as Baron Skene in 1857 and a Knight of the Thistle in 1860.

The only son of this peer, who succeeded him in 1879, was Alexander William George, sixth Earl Fife, who was to be the last male of the more modern line. Before succeeding to the peerage he became Lord-Lieutenant of Elginshire, and he was M.P. for Elgin and Nairn from 1874. He was also Captain of the Corps of Gentlemen at Arms, and was a highly popular peer. The climax of the fortunes of his family was reached when in 1889 he married Her Royal Highness the Princess Louise, eldest daughter of the Prince of Wales, afterwards the late King Edward. Already, in 1885, he had been created an Earl of the United Kingdom, and two days after his marriage he was made a Duke. In 1900, seeing he had no sons, he was further created Earl of Macduff and Duke of Fife, with special remainder to his first and other daughters by the Princess Louise, and their male issue, and in 1905 his wife received the title of the Princess Royal, while her daughters were ordained to bear the title of Princess and

to rank immediately after all members of the Royal Family bearing the style of Royal Highness. A great sensation was caused, when in 1912, the vessel in which the Duke and his Duchess, with their two daughters, were sailing to the east, was shipwrecked in the Mediterranean. None of the family was drowned, but the Duke's health gave way, and he died shortly afterwards. He was succeeded in the honours and estates of the dukedom by his elder daughter, Her Highness the Princess Alexandra Victoria Duff, who in the following year married H.R.H. Prince Arthur of Connaught. The ancient line of the Duffs, therefore, has now merged in a branch of the reigning house of these realms.

Among distinguished people of the name of Duff has been the famous Indian missionary and publicist, Alexander Duff, D.D., LL.D., Moderator of the General Assembly of the Free Church in 1851, and one of the framers of the constitution of Calcutta University, who founded the Missionary Chair in the New College, Edinburgh, and was the first missionary professor. During the Irish insurrection of 1798 it was General Sir James Duff, commander of the Limerick District, who rendered the important service of keeping Limerick quiet. It was Robert Duff, who, as senior officer of a squadron in 1759, drew the French into the main body of the British fleet, and brought about the battle of Quiberon Bay. He became Commander-in-Chief in Newfoundland in 1775, and as Vice-Admiral co-operated at the siege of Gibraltar in 1779. And Sir Robert William Duff, who for a time bore the name of Abercrombie, was successively M.P. for Banffshire, a commander in the Navy, a member of the Liberal Government, a Privy Councillor, and was made G.C.M.G. and Governor of New South Wales in 1893.

## SEPTS OF CLAN MACDUFF

Duff  
Fyfe  
Spens

Fife  
Spence  
Wemyss

## CLAN MACGILLIVRAY

**BADGE :** Lus nam braoileag (vaccineum vitis idea) red whortle berry.

**SLOGAN :** Loch Moy, or Dunma'glas.

**PIBROCH :** Spaidsearachd Chlann Mhic Gillebhràth.

MR GEORGE BAIN, the historian of Nairnshire, in one of his many interesting and valuable brochures, *The Last of Her Race*, recounts a tradition of the battle of Culloden which was handed down by members of an old family of the district, the Dallases of Cantray. At the time of the last Jacobite rising, it appears, two beautiful girls lived in the valley of the Nairn. At Clunas, a jointure house of Cawdor, high in the hills, lived Elizabeth Campbell, daughter of Duncan Campbell of Clunas. She was a highly accomplished young woman, having been educated in Italy, whither her father had fled after taking part in the Jacobite rising of 1715, and she was engaged to be married to young Alexander MacGillivray, chief of the clan of that name. Anna Dallas of Cantray, on the other hand, was a daughter of the chief of the Dallases, and her home was the old house of Cantray in the valley of the Nairn below. She likewise was engaged to be married, and her fiancé was Duncan Mackintosh of Castleledders, a near relative of the Mackintosh chief. These were said to be the two most beautiful women in the Highlands at the time. Old Simon, Lord Lovat, who, with all his wickedness, was well qualified to criticise, is said to have declared that he did not know which was the more dangerous attraction, "the Star on the Hilltop," or "the Light in the Valley." There was doubtless something of a rivalry between the two young women. Now, Angus, chief of the Mackintoshes, was on the Government side, and in his absence his wife, the heroic Lady Mackintosh, then only twenty years of age, had raised her husband's clan for Prince Charles. On the eve of the battle of Culloden it was thought that Mackintosh of Castleledders might lead the clan in the impending battle. That night, however, Elizabeth Campbell told her fiancé that unless he led the Mackin-





MAC GILLIVRAY





tosh clan for the Prince on the morrow, he need come to see her no more. The young fellow accordingly hurried off to Moy Hall, and told "Colonel" Anne, as the pressmen of that time called Lady Mackintosh, that the MacGillivrays would not fight on the morrow unless he was in command of the whole Clan Mackintosh. Now the MacGillivrays were only a sept of the clan, though the mother of Dunmaglass was descended from the sixteenth Mackintosh chief, but they made a considerable part of the strength of Clan Mackintosh. Lady Mackintosh, therefore, became alarmed, sent for Castledders, and begged him for the sake of the cause which was at stake to forego his right, as nearest relative of its chief, to lead the clan on this occasion. Moved by her entreaty he agreed, with the words, "Madam, at your request, I resign my command, but a Mackintosh chief cannot serve under a MacGillivray"; and accordingly he went home and took no part in the battle. Next day, it is said, the heart of Elizabeth Campbell was filled with pride when she saw her sweetheart, Alexander MacGillivray, yellow-haired young giant as he was, marshalling the Mackintoshes 700 strong in the centre of the Prince's army, and it is said she rode on to the field to congratulate him. The Prince noticed her, and asked who she was, and, on being told, remarked that MacGillivray was a lucky fellow to have so beautiful and so spirited a fiancée.

Alas! a few hours later young MacGillivray lay dying on the field. His last act, it is said, was to help a poor drummer boy, whom he heard moaning for water, to the spring which may still be seen at hand, and which is known to this day from the fact as MacGillivray's or the Dead Men's Well. There he was found next morning, his body stripped by the cruel Hanoverian soldiery, and it was remarked what a beautiful figure of a young fellow he was. His body was buried in the Moss where it lay, and six weeks later, after the English had gone, when it was taken up, to be buried under the doorstep of the kirk of Petty, people marvelled that it was still fresh and beautiful, and that his wounds bled afresh.

Young as he was, Dunmaglass had played his part splendidly in the battle. In the furious attack which he led, the Mackintoshes almost annihilated the left wing of the Duke of Cumberland's army, and before he fell, with four officers of his clan, MacGillivray himself encountered the commander of Barrel's regiment, and struck off some of his fingers with his broadsword. Next day, in the streets of Inverness, this commander met a private soldier

wearing MacGillivray's finely embroidered waistcoat, and, recognising it, indignantly stopped the man, and ordered him to take it off. "Yesterday," he said, "on the field of battle I met the brave man who wore that waistcoat, and it shall not be thus degraded." The waistcoat, however, must afterwards have been lost or again stolen, for it is recorded that it was observed exposed for sale in the window of a tailor in Inverness.

Such was the family tradition of the Dallases accounting for the fact that Dunmaglass led the Mackintoshes at Culloden. But it must be remembered that he had seen foreign service and had led the clan from the first, meeting the Prince at Stirling with seven hundred men at his back on Charles's return from England, and commanding the regiment at the battle of Falkirk.

Meanwhile poor Elizabeth Campbell, though her ambition had been gratified, was stricken to the heart. Her big beardless boy lover—he was six feet five inches in height—with light yellow hair, and a complexion as fair and delicate as any lady's—was dead, and he would indeed come to see her no more. A few months afterwards she died of a broken heart. On the other hand, Anna Dallas had lost her father. The chief of the Dallases was killed in the battle by a bullet through the left temple. But she married her lover, Duncan Mackintosh of Castledders, and their son, Angus, by and by, succeeded as chief of the Mackintoshes and the great Clan Chattan.

Of the MacGillivrays it may be said, as was said of the great house of Douglas, that no one can point to their first mean man. A tradition recorded by Browne in his *History* derives the name from Gillebride, said to have been the father of the great Somerled. But of the origin of the family nothing is known definitely except that so far back as the thirteenth century the ancestor of the race, one Gilbrai, Gillebreac, or Gillebride, placed himself and his posterity under the protection of Ferquhard, the fifth Mackintosh chief. The name MacGillivray probably means either "the son of the freckled lad," or "the son of the servant of St. Bride." In any case, for some five centuries, down to the last heroic onset on the field of Culloden, just referred to, the MacGillivrays faithfully and bravely followed the "yellow brattach," or standard, of the Mackintoshes, to whom they had allied themselves on that far-off day. An account of the descent of the race of Gilbrai is given in the history of *The Mackintoshes and Clan Chattan* by Mr. A. M. Mackintosh—one of the best and most reliable of the Highland clan histories extant.



Mr. Mackintosh quotes the Rev. Lachlan Shaw's *History of the Province of Moray*, the Kinrara Manuscript of 1679, and various writs and documents in the Mackintosh charter-chest at Moy Hall, and his account is not only the latest but the most authoritative on the subject.

The first of Gilbrai's descendants to attain mention is Duncan, son of Allan. This Duncan married a natural daughter of the sixth Mackintosh chief, and his son Ivor was killed at Drumlui in 1330. A hundred years later, about the middle of the fifteenth century, the chief of the MacGillivrays appears to have been a certain Ian Ciar (Brown). At any rate, when William, fifteenth chief of the Mackintoshes, was infefted in the estate of Moy and other lands held from the Bishop of Moray, the names of a son and two grandsons of this Ian Ciar appear in the list of witnesses. Other Mackintosh documents show the race to have been settled by that time on the lands of Dunmaglass (the fort of the grey man's son), belonging to the thanes of Cawdor. Ian Ciar was apparently succeeded by a son, Duncan, and he again by his son Ferquhar, who, in 1549, gave letters of reversion of the lands of Dalmigavie to Robert Dunbar of Durris. Ferquhar's son, again, Alastair, in 1581 paid forty shillings to Thomas Calder, Sheriff-Depute of Nairn, for "two taxations of his £4 lands of Domnaglasche, granted by the nobility to the King." It was in his time, in 1594, that the MacGillivrays fought in the royal army under the young Earl of Argyll at the disastrous battle of Glenlivet. Alastair's son, Ferquhar, appears to have been a minor in 1607 and 1609, for in the former of these years his kinsman Malcolm MacBean was among the leading men of Clan Chattan called to answer to the Privy Council for the good behaviour of Clan Chattan during the minority of Sir Lachlan Mackintosh its chief; and in the latter year, when a great band of union was made at Termit, near Inverness, between the various septs of Clan Chattan, responsibility for the "haill kin and race of the Clan M'Ilivray" was accepted by Malcolm MacBean, Ewen M'Ewen, and Duncan MacFerquhar, the last-named being designated as tenant in Dunmaglass, and being probably an uncle of young Ferquhar MacGillivray.

This Ferquhar, son of Alastair, was the first to obtain a heritable right to Dunmaglass, though his predecessors had occupied the lands from time immemorial under the old thanes of Cawdor and their later successors, the Campbells. The feu-contract was dated 4th April, 1626, and the feu-duty payable was £16 Scots yearly, with



attendance on Cawdor at certain courts and on certain occasions.

Ferquhar's eldest son, Alexander, died before his father, and in 1671 his three brothers, Donald, William, and Bean MacGillivray, were put to the horn, with a number of other persons, by the Lords of Justiciary for contempt of court; at the same time Donald, who, three years earlier, had acquired Dalcrombie and Letterchallen from Alexander Mackintosh of Connage, was designated tutor of Dunmaglass, being probably manager of the family affairs for his father and his brother, Alexander's son.

Alexander MacGillivray had married Agnes, daughter of William Mackintosh of Kyllachy, and his son Farquhar, was in 1698 a member of the Commission against MacDonald of Keppoch. Three years later he married Amelia Stewart. Farquhar, his eldest son and successor, was a Captain in Mackintosh's regiment in the Jacobite rising of 1715, while the second son, William, was a Lieutenant in the same regiment and was known as Captain Ban. Their kinsman, MacGillivray of Dalcrombie, was also an officer, and, among the rank and file forced to surrender at Preston, and executed or transported, were thirteen Mackintoshes and sixteen MacGillivrays.

It was Alexander, eldest son of the last-named Farquhar, who, having succeeded his father in 1740, commanded the Mackintosh regiment and fell at Culloden as already related. Among those who fell with him on that occasion was Major John Mor MacGillivray. It was told of him that after the charge he was seen a gunshot past the Hanoverian cannon and killed a dozen men with his broadsword while some of the halberts were run through his body. Another clansman, Robert Mor MacGillivray, killed seven of his enemies with the tram of a peat cart before he was himself overpowered and slain.

The young chief, Alexander MacGillivray, was succeeded by his next brother, William, who, in 1759, became a captain in the 89th Regiment, raised by the Duchess of Gordon. He served with that regiment, mostly in India, till it was disbanded in 1765. His next brother, John, was a merchant at Mobile, and a loyalist colonel in the American Revolution. With his help William added to his family estate the lands of Faillie, and half of Inverarney, with Wester Lairgs and Easter Gask, the two last having previously been held on lease.



WELL OF THE DEAD, CULLODEN MOOR



His son, John Lachlan MacGillivray, succeeded not only to the family estates but to the property of his uncle, Colonel John, the wealthy Mobile merchant. As a young officer in the 16th Light Dragoons, he had been given to much extravagance, but on inheriting his uncle's money he was able to clear the estate of debt. At his death, however, in 1852, he left no family, and the chiefship devolved on the representative of Donald of Dalcrombie, the tutor of Dunmaglass in the seventeenth century. The tutor's grandson, Donald, was one of those murdered in cold blood by the Hanoverian soldiery after Culloden, but his son Farquhar, also an officer of the Mackintosh regiment, survived the battle. He married Margaret, daughter of Æneas Shaw of Tordarroch, and it was his son John who, in 1852, succeeded to Dunmaglass and the chiefship.

This succession was disputed by a kinsman, the Reverend Lachlan MacGillivray, descended from William MacGillivray of Lairgs, brother of Donald, the tutor, the question being whether Donald, the tutor, or his brother William of Lairgs, had been the elder. In 1857 the court decided in favour of Donald and his descendants. Two years before this, however, John MacGillivray had died. He had been a well-known man in Canada, where he was a member of the Legislative Council. The eldest of his four sons, Neil John, found himself in financial straits, and after selling Wester Lairgs and Easter Gask, took steps to dispose of Dunmaglass itself, and the rest of the property which had been possessed by his family from time immemorial. His eldest son, John William, born in 1864, is the present chief of the MacGillivrays.

The ancient property of this family lies about the sources of the river Farigaig in Stratherrick. When the Thane of Cawdor, in 1405, procured an act incorporating all his lands in Inverness and Forres into the shire of Nairn, Dunmaglass was part of the territory included. It forms an oblique parallelogram about seven miles long and sixteen square miles in extent. In "the forty-five" the chief's own followers numbered about eighty men.

Besides the family of Dunmaglass and its following there was in the Island of Mull a sept of the MacGillivrays which took its name from the residence of its head and was known as "Og Beinn-na-gall." They were believed to have been descended from the main stem in Lochaber, and to have been dispersed after the discomfiture of Somerled, Lord of the Isles, in 1164. They were also known under the name of MacAngus, or MacInnes.



In the line of ancestors from whom these island clansmen claimed descent was a certain Martin MacGillivray, a parson of about the year 1640. This individual, according to Logan, author of the letterpress of MacIan's *Clans of the Scottish Highlands*, was in the habit of carrying a sword. Upon one occasion he happened to call on a son of MacLean of Lochbuie for part of his stipend. The latter refused to pay, and asked whether his visitor meant to enforce his demand with his sword. "Rather than lose what is my due," answered MacGillivray, "I shall use my weapon, and I am content to lose the money if you can put my back to the wall." In the upshot, however, he quickly brought his opponent to his knees, and the latter thereupon gave in, paid the amount due, and declared that he liked well to meet a man who could maintain his living by the sword.

Another anecdote of this house is told by the same writer. At the battle of Sheriffmuir, in 1715, he says, the Laird of Beinn-na-gall happened to stumble, whereupon a friend standing near, thinking he was shot, cried out, "God preserve ye, MacGillivray!" He was no doubt startled by the reply, "God preserve yourself," exclaimed Beinn-na-gall, "I have at present no need of His aid."

These island MacGillivrays or MacInneses, however, followed, not the chiefs of Clan Chattan, but the MacDougal Campbells of Craignish, as their chiefs. Details regarding them are to be found in Cosmo Innes's *Early Scottish History* and in Skene's *Highlanders of Scotland*.

#### SEPTS OF CLAN MACGILLIVRAY

Gilroy  
MacGilroy  
MacGilvray  
Macilvrae

MacGillivour  
MacGilvra  
Macilroy

## CLAN MACINNES

BADGE : Cuileann (Ilex aquifolium) Holly.

NOT a great deal appears to be known about this West Highland clan. The common derivation of the name is from Angus, one of the most ancient of Christian names among the Gael. In the genitive the "g" of this word is aspirated, and the name is left with the sound MacAon'es or MacInnes. Who the original Angus was, however, appears to be unknown, and as the name MacInnes also means "Son of the Islet," many of the bearers of it are no doubt descendants of individuals who dwelt in such a spot, and in the usual way took their name from their location. The ancient family of Innes of Innes in Moray, of which the Duke of Roxburghe is head, no doubt derives its name from such a circumstance.

Skene, in his *Highlanders of Scotland*, says, "The oldest inhabitants of Morven, Ardgour, and Lochaber consisted of two clans, the MacGillivrays and the MacInneses, who were of the same race. The statement is confirmed by an old MS. History of the MacDonalds written in the reign of Charles II. in the Gregory collection. Before the defeat of the Lord of the Isles and the dispersion of the clans by Alexander II. a single confederacy, the Siol Gillivray, appears to have included the MacGillivrays, MacInneses, MacEacherns, and MacMasters.

Clan MacInnes had its headquarters in the heart of Morven, and at the head of Loch Aline, which winds away into the hills from the Sound of Mull, the ruin of an old square tower is still pointed out as the ancient seat of the chiefs.

Tradition avers that this old tower of Kinlochaline was built by a lady of the name of Dougall. This tradition is corroborated by an old saying—*MacAonghais an Dun's MacDhughil an Laorn*, "MacInnes of the Fort of MacDougall of Lorn." The stones of which the stronghold is erected are remarkable for their size, even to the top of the wall, and it is said that the cost of the building was equal to that of a mass of butter of the same extent.

Whatever the cost, the builder chose a site for the fortalice that was both picturesque and of great natural strength. From the summit of a bold rock overhanging the loch the ruin still romantically lords the scene. Kinlochaline was within a short distance of Ardtornish, on the Sound of Mull itself, one of the principal seats of the all-powerful Lords of the Isles, and the MacInneses were probably, therefore, closely allied with and dominated by these potentates. The seat of the MacInnes chiefs, however, was still a place of strength in the middle of the seventeenth century. In 1645, during the wars of Montrose, Kinlochaline was besieged by the Irish auxiliaries of that leader. The siege was pressed with much vigour, but Clan MacInnes held out with great bravery till a breach was made in the wall and defence became hopeless. The castle was then taken and garrisoned for King Charles I.

The MacInnes chiefs sleep their last sleep in the little burial-ground of Kilcolumkil, a short distance away. Several of their monuments are there to be seen, slab stones beautifully sculptured with intricate designs of foliage and tracery. No inscriptions, however, remain to tell the names of the sleepers or the deeds which they performed.

In early times the MacInnes clansmen were famous for their skill in archery, and one of their families held the office of hereditary bowman to the Chiefs of MacKinnon. This official had the duty of instructing the MacKinnon clansmen in the use of the weapon, and for its services the family enjoyed a hereditary farm, Dal na Saighdear—"the Field of the Archer." Many characteristic anecdotes are related regarding these hereditary bowmen.

#### SEPTS OF CLAN MACINNES

Angus  
MacAngus  
MacCansh

Innes  
MacCainsh  
MacMaster



MAC INTYRE





## CLAN MACINTYRE

BADGE : Fraoch gorm (erica vulgaris) common heath.

SLOGAN : Cruachan.

PIBROCH : Gabhaidh sinn an nathad mór.

LIKE Gow, MacNair, and others, the name MacIntyre is one of the Highland cognomens derived from a handicraft. Its holder was "the son of a carpenter." Whether or not all holders of the name are derived from a single origin appears doubtful, though common tradition asserts that they are a branch of the great Clan Donald. A romantic story which accounts for the conferring of the name is of a Macdonald at sea alone in an open boat, who found his craft suddenly spring a dangerous leak. Being without other means to stop it he thrust his thumb into the hole, and as it was impossible to keep the thumb there and at the same time navigate the boat to land he cut the thumb off. For this drastic expedient he was ever afterwards named "the Carpenter." Such a story looks like a device of the Highlander to escape from the necessity of deriving his name from an actual handicraft, which was looked down upon as unbecoming the character of a gentleman. Holders of the name, however, seem never to have taken the field under a single chief or leader, and from their appearance in widely separate parts of the country, there is room for the supposition that the name was derived not from one but from many individuals who each in his own district, were actual workers in wood. MacIntyres, at any rate, held lands under different chiefs of other names, and fought under different banners.

Perhaps the most notable ancestor claimed for the clan is a certain Paul, who is described as a personage of great power in Sutherland towards the close of the thirteenth century. Dun Creich, a vitrified fort in that county, is said to have been built by him, and to have been his stronghold. Even this tradition, however, seems seriously open to question, for vitrified forts, the construction of which is a long lost art, are believed to belong to a much earlier date than 1290 or thereabout. If Paul himself is not altogether a myth, he can hardly have been more than the builder of a wooden fort on the remains of a much

more ancient vitrified foundation. To the fact that his fort was of wood, like Macbeth's Dunsinnan, and Lumphanan and other strongholds of the middle centuries, Paul may have owed his name of Carpenter.

But the name of MacIntyre has been much more illustrious in the arts than in the crafts. In the district of Rannoch a family of MacIntyres were famous for centuries as musicians. From the year 1680 they were pipers to Chiefs of Clan Menzies, who owned the district, for whom, among other airs, they composed the salute. Ian MacDhonuill Mor, who was the Menzies piper at the time of the battle of Sheriffmuir, in 1715, was the composer of the fine pibroch, "Cath Sliabh an t-Siorra," which commemorates that event.

Most celebrated of all the holders of the name, however, was Duncan Ban MacIntyre, the Gaelic poet of the eighteenth century, who ranks next to Ossian himself as the bard of the Gaelic race. Born in Glen Orchy in 1724, Fair Duncan had none of the advantages of education, yet for originality and sweetness his songs remain unsurpassed in the language of the Highlands. During the Jacobite rising of 1745 many MacIntyres fought under the banner of Stewart of Appin; but Duncan was on the side of Government, and took part against the Jacobites at the battle of Falkirk. He cannot, however, have been a very convinced Hanoverian, for, after the battle he composed a humorous poem on General Hawley's defeat. When, a little later, as a result of the rebellion, an Act of Parliament was passed forbidding the clansmen to wear arms and the tartan, thus depriving Hanoverian and Jacobite clans alike of their national dress and weapons, he gave voice to a strenuous indignation, declaring that the Highlanders were made the Saxon's jest, and that, should Charles return, they were ready to stand by him. For this he was thrown into jail and only saved from a long imprisonment, or perhaps worse, by the solicitations of powerful friends. Thirty-five years later, when, at the instance of the Duke of Montrose and General Fraser, the Act against wearing Highland dress was repealed, Duncan burst forth in joyous strain with his "Orain na Briogas," the Song of the Breeches. Wearing these garments, the sons of the north, he declared, blushed when in presence of the fair. But now, he exclaimed, "the men of the hills appear again in their loved tartans, the coat with the strife of colours; gracefully stream our belted plaids, our hose reach not the knee, nor hinder the step." To the Highland Society, of which he was



OLD CLANSMEN'S HOUSES AT THE FALLS OF DOCHIART





appointed Bard, Duncan at the annual meetings addressed many stirring harangues in the Gaelic tongue. To the present hour the sweet singer of Glen Orchy remains the greatest glory of the name of MacIntyre.

The clan is generally believed to be an offshoot of the MacDonalds. A family of the name was in possession of Glenoe near Bonawe in Lorn from 1300 till 1810, and acted as hereditary foresters to the Stewart and Campbell Lords of Lorn. In 1556, under the name of Clan Teir, the MacIntyre's are mentioned in the Black Book of Taymouth as giving a bond of good behaviour to Sir Colin Campbell of Glenurchy after the murder of one MacGillenlag. Branches were dependents of the Campbells of Craignish in 1612, and of the Mackintosh chiefs in Badenoch in 1496. The weaving village of Cladich on Loch Awe was once almost entirely peopled by holders of the name, and MacIntyres were the hereditary pipers to the Chiefs of Clanranald and Menzies.

The representative of the Chiefs of the name is now in America.

## SEPTS OF CLAN MACINTYRE

MacTear  
Tyre  
Wright

## CLAN MACIVER

**BADGE :** Garbhag an t-sleibh (lycopodium selago) fir club moss.

ACCORDING to Highland record and tradition the great Clan Campbell took its origin about the beginning of the twelfth century with the marriage of Gillespie Campbell with Eva, daughter of the Treasurer of Scotland, Paul O'Duin, Chief of the race of the famous Diarmid. This marriage made the Campbells lords of Lochow. Half a century later, in the reign of Malcolm IV., Duncan Campbell of Lochow had a younger son, Iver, who became the ancestor of the separate clan of that name. This was a hundred years before the birth of the great Sir Colin Campbell of Lochow, knighted by Alexander III., and slain on the Sraing of Lorne, from whom the Campbell chiefs to-day take the patronymic of MacCailein Mor. A different origin is given in Principal Campbell's book *Clan Iver*, published about 1870. That author makes out that the MacIvers were holding lands as a distinct and separate clan in Argyll prior to any Campbells being known there, having come from Glenlyon in Perthshire about 1222 and having been awarded lands in return for services rendered in the conquest of Argyll at that period. The MacIvers, however, maintained allegiance to the House of Argyll. In turn they were regarded with high affection and were entrusted with such posts as the Keepership of Inveraray Castle after that stronghold was built in the middle of the fifteenth century.

In 1564 Archibald, fifth Earl of Argyll, he who commanded Queen Mary's forces at the battle of Langside, recognised the separate authority of the MacIver chiefs. By formal deed the Earl resigned all direct claim upon the MacIver dependants. The document declared that the Earl relinquished for ever, to his cousin Iver MacIver and his successors, of "his awin frie motife, uncompellit, and for special cause and favours," all "ryght, title, and kyndnes, quhatsomever, we, or our predecessoris had, has, or in any manner of way may claim, of the calpis aucht and wont to come to our house, of the surname of MacEver, with power to use, uplift, intromit, and uptak the said calpis to thair awin utilitie and profite, and to dispone thairupon as

they sall think expedient, as anie uther freehalder, and as we was wont to do of before, providing that we haif the said Ever's calpe."

The "calpe," it should perhaps be mentioned, was a death duty, in the shape of a horse, cow, ox, or other chattel, payable to a chief out of the possessions of a deceased clansman. The fact that the calpe of MacIver himself remained to be paid to Argyll, was an acknowledgment that the MacIvers were a branch or sept of the Campbell clan.

The original possessions of the MacIvers were Lergachonzie, Ashnish on Loch Melfort, and certain lands in Cowal. To these they made great additions, while branches of the family settled as far afield as Caithness, Inverness-shire, and the Lewis. They are said to have been expelled from Glen Lyon in the end of the fourteenth century by Cuilean Cursta, the fierce Wolf of Badenoch. The Chiefs also held the honourable office of Crowner within a certain district. In the middle of the seventeenth century, however, the properties of the MacIvers suffered considerable alienation. A Chief of that time, Gillespie Ban MacIver, had an only daughter, whom he married to Campbell of Barchbeyan, ancestor of the Campbells of Craignish, and by way of dowrie he bestowed on her the lands of Lergachonzie and others. From that date the MacIver Chiefs were known as of Ashnish only. At the same time Gillespie Ban, having no male heir, resigned the rest of the family possessions to his cousin, "a man of remarkable courage and intrepidity." The latter was heir-male to Duncan MacIver of Stronshira, and so the two estates of Stronshira and Ashnish came into the same hands.

In the latter part of the same century the MacIvers suffered a still more serious eclipse. It was the time of the Solemn League and Covenant. The Marquess of Argyll, as head of the Covenanters and opponent of King Charles I., had misused his powers for the extinction of the hereditary rivals of his house, such as the Macdonalds of Kintyre, and Macdougalls of Gylen and Dunolly, and the Lamonts of Cowal, and at the Restoration he had been brought to trial and executed. His son Archibald, the ninth Earl, who was restored to the family estates and honours in 1663, got into similar trouble eighteen years later. In 1681 he refused to sign the Test Act, was found guilty of treason, and sentenced to death. While awaiting execution in Edinburgh Castle he contrived to escape disguised as a page, holding up the train of his step-daughter, Lady Sophia Lindsay, and reached Holland.



Four years later, simultaneously with the rising of the Duke of Monmouth in the south of England, Argyll landed in the Kyles of Bute and raised the standard of rebellion against James VII. and II. He was promptly joined by Iver MacIver, chief of that clan, at the head of a hundred men. After crossing the Water of Leven, however, the expedition went to pieces in a night march over Dunbarton Muir, and the Earl was captured at Inchinnan, and carried to Edinburgh, to sleep the "last sleep of Argyll." The Argyll estates were then forfeited to the Crown, and MacIver's possessions suffered the same fate. After the Revolution in 1689, however, the Argyll forfeiture was rescinded, and MacIver obtained a new grant of his lands from Archibald, the tenth Earl and first Duke of Argyll. This grant contained a serious stipulation. In the deed of 1564 by which the fifth Earl recognised the chiefship, it had been stipulated that the heads of the house should be known, not as Campbells but as MacIvers. The new grant changed this. For his favour the Duke imposed the condition that MacIver's son, Duncan, and his heirs, should assume the name of Campbell, and should quarter the Campbell arms with their own.'

This Duncan MacIver or Campbell of Ashnish, who was the eighth Chief, married a daughter of MacAlastair of Loup, and distinguished himself in the early years of the eighteenth century by his well-directed exertions to "civilise" the Highlanders. His second son and successor married Catherine Campbell, daughter of the Captain of Dunstaffnage, and his son and heir, again, Angus Campbell of Ashnish, the tenth Chief, who was spoken of for a century afterwards with great respect, married Elizabeth, daughter of MacLachlan of Craigentary, and had six sons, all of whom attained honourable positions in life, as well as four daughters who married well, and all had families. The eldest of these sons, Robert Campbell of Ashnish, attained an excellent reputation as an advocate in the Court of Session. He married in 1769 a daughter of Mail of Maghide in Lancashire, but had only one daughter.

Meanwhile, apart from the main body of the clan, a branch which had settled in Lochaber had attached itself to the following of Macdonald of Keppoch. From the patrimony of its progenitors in Argyll it was often referred to as the race of MacIver Glasrich, which name in time was shortened to MacGlasrich. In the keen spirit of clanship this race maintained its separate identity, and at the battle of Culloden, though acting under Keppoch, they insisted on being drawn up as a separate clan, under their own

officers. They also, mindful of their origin and of the fact that they wore the Campbell tartan and carried the Campbell colours, refused to be marshalled in such a position as would have compelled them to engage the Argyll militia.

In his first great romance of *Waverley* Sir Walter Scott introduced as a tragic figure the handsome young Fergus MacIver, who looked to a success of the Jacobite cause to enable him to realise certain dreams of setting up an independent chiefship and founding a clan. It is usually supposed that Scott's model for this personage was the handsome young Glengarry, whose visits to the Scottish capital in full Highland panoply and with a formidable "tail" of clansmen created something of a sensation at that time. But Scott could not have been unaware of the existence of an actual MacIver Chief, and of the disabilities under which he lay in being compelled to use the name Campbell. This seems a much more likely suggestion for the character of Fergus MacIver than that which has been commonly accepted.

<sup>1</sup> In August, 1919, Captain MacIver Campbell of Ballochyle wrote from Vancouver as follows: "As far as my family is concerned our title deeds were all in the name of MacIver until 1599, when they appear as MacIver *or* Campbell and then gradually as Campbell only. My father, the late Lieutenant-Colonel Wm. Rose Campbell of Ballochyle, when entailing the property, made it imperative that the laird should take the name of MacIver-Campbell so as to preserve the ancient patronymic of the family."

## CLAN MACKAY

BADGE : Bealuidh (Sarothamnus scorparius) broom.

PIBROCH : Brattach bhan Clan Aoidh and Donald Duaghal Mhic Aoidh.

SLOGAN : Bratach Bhàn Chlann Aoidh.

ONE of the finest songs by that fine song writer and musician, Dr. John Park, deals in an allusive way with an episode characteristic of the past of the far north-west of Scotland, in the region of Cape Wrath, which was the ancient country of the warlike Clan MacKay.

" This howling wind o'er sea and sky  
Careers wi' dule and sorrow,  
And many a woeful heart and eye  
Shall weep the coming morrow;  
But yet I dream amid this tide  
So furious, wild, and wintry,  
Of the fairest eyes on any side  
Of the Lord Reay's country.

Now lulls the gale, but upward fly  
The roaring surges round us;  
Nor e'er could reach a drowning cry  
To the wild shores that bound us;  
Where soon for us the dirge may rise  
From caves, the sea-sprites' chantry  
Whose sound now dims the bluest eyes  
In the Lord Reay's country.

The moon shines out. Oh! pale and fair  
Is she whose lamp is burning,  
Through lonely night and stormy air,  
To welcome my returning,  
And see, how dearly yonder lies  
The well-known bay's old entry,  
Where our sail shall greet the fairest eyes,  
In the Lord Reay's country."

The district anciently occupied by the Clan MacKay, and known from the name of its chief as the Lord Reay's country, extended along some two-thirds of the broken north coast of Scotland, from Reay itself on Sandside Bay, some ten miles west of Thurso, along the wild loch-indented coast to Cape Wrath, and as far southward as



MACKAY





Edrachills Bay on the West Coast. It is a pathetic fact that this great stretch of country is no longer in possession of its ancient owners; but the story of how the MacKays came into possession of Strathnaver, of how they held it through the stormy middle centuries, and how at last it passed out of their hands, remains one of the most interesting in the Highlands.

On the east the territory of the MacKays marched with that of the Sinclairs and the Gunns, while on the south it marched with that of the MacLeods and the Murrays of Sutherland, and naturally much of the story is of feud and friendship with these neighbouring clans.

According to Skene in his *Highlanders*, "there are few clans whose true origin is more uncertain than that of the MacKays." But while this origin cannot be altogether definitely ascertained, tradition carries it back to the first Gaelic inhabitants of the country. The Norwegian sagas declare the ancestor of the race to have been a jarl, which is probably a Norse translation of the Celtic Maormor, or governor of a province. From the similarity of badge and armorial bearings, some writers have counted the clan a branch of the Forbeses. According to Sir Robert Gordon, the first of the MacKays who obtained possessions in Strathnaver was named Martin. This Martin, he says, "was slain at Keanloch-Eylk in Lochaber, and had a son called Magnus. Magnus died in Strathnaver, leaving two sons, Morgan and Farquhar. From this Morgan the whole of MacKay is generally called Clan-vic-Morgan. From Farquhar the Clan-vic-Farquhar in Strathnaver are descended." Nisbet in his *Heraldry* derives the MacKays from Alexander, a younger son of Ochonochar, the ancestor of the Forbeses, who came from Ireland about the end of the twelfth century; and this theory is followed by Robert MacKay, historian of the Clan, who says the ancestor of the MacKays was Alexander, who lived between 1180 and 1222. When King William the Lion, at the end of the twelfth century, marched northward to repel the Norse invaders, he is said to have had with him one body of men from the province of Moray under Hugh Freskin, ancestor of the Murrays of Sutherland, and another body from Gallo-way under Alexander, ancestor of the MacKays. Skene believes the progenitors of the clan to have been the old Gaelic Maormors of Caithness.

In any case from an early period the MacKays played a striking part in Scottish history. Magnus, the great-grandson of Alexander, fought on the side of Robert the

Bruce at Bannockburn. It was from Morgan, the son of this Magnus, that the clan took its appellation of Siol Mhorgain, the race of Morgan. Donald, the son of Morgan, married the daughter of MacNeil of Gigha on the Kintyre coast, and from the son of this pair, named Aodh, the clan derives its patronymic of MacAodh, or MacKay. The clan seems rapidly to have become very powerful, and from an early date to have been engaged in feuds with its neighbours. In 1395, at Dingwall, in the course of one of these feuds, the Earl of Sutherland killed the MacKay chief and his son with his own hand; and a few years later, in the course of a family quarrel with the MacLeods of Lewis, a bloody battle was fought in Strathoykell on the marches of Ross and Sutherland, from which, it is said, only one solitary Lewis man escaped, seriously wounded, to tell the tale in his native island.

In 1411 the chief, Angus Dubh, was able to muster no fewer than 4,000 men to oppose Donald of the Isles in his campaign to seize the earldom of Ross, which ended at the battle of Harlaw. MacKay was bold enough to face Donald single-handed at Dingwall, but was defeated and taken prisoner. After a short time, however, he was released, and the Lord of the Isles gave him his daughter Elizabeth in marriage, with certain lands by way of tocher. In the charter of these lands he is called "Angus Eyg de Strathnaver."

This alliance with the Lord of the Isles proved disastrous to MacKay, for when, to curb the disturbances raised by the island prince, King James I. marched into the north, he arrested Angus MacKay and his four sons, and only set the Chief free on condition that one son became a hostage for his father.

There was trouble again when Thomas, one of the MacKays, for an act of outrage and sacrilege, was outlawed by the king, and his lands in Sutherland were offered to any person bold enough to kill or capture him. With the help of MacKay's own brothers, Angus Murray of Cubin seized the outlaw and executed him; but when Murray came further, at the instigation of the Earl of Sutherland, to invade Strathnaver, his force was defeated, and he and the two MacKays who had helped him were slain. This was the battle of Druim na cuip, at the top of a pass near Ben Loyal. The leader of the MacKays was young Iain Aberach, a son of Angus MacKay by his second wife, a Macdonald of Keppoch in Lochaber. From him descended the Aberach MacKays. After the fight old Angus MacKay had himself carried to the field to view his son's



victory, when a lurking Moray man shot him with an arrow.

Later, in 1437, when the hostage Neil MacKay returned from his captivity on the Bass, the MacKays invaded Caithness, defeated the Sinclairs, and plundered the country. A later feud among the MacKays of Strathnaver, the Earls of Sutherland and Caithness, and the Gunns, brought about a pitched battle in 1517 at Torran Dubh, in which hundreds of men on both sides were slain, and the MacKays were routed. After several further struggles the MacKay chief made his peace with the Earl of Sutherland in 1522. Twenty years later Donald MacKay again invaded Sutherland, but was captured and imprisoned, and in 1549 gave his bond of service and manrent to the Earl.

These were only a few of the feuds, excursions, and alarms in which the MacKays were engaged for 150 years, and something of their warlike temper may be guessed from the fact that they fought no fewer than ten pitched battles, between that of Tuttumtarmhich in 1406 and Garuarrai in 1555. Part of the reason for this turbulence of the MacKay chiefs is probably to be found in the fact that they were among the last in Scotland to hold their lands as allodial or entirely independent territory. They did not come under the feudal system and accept a charter to hold their lands of the King till 1499.

Among notable events in the story of that time Aodh or Hugh MacKay fell at Flodden with James IV., and his second son and successor Donald MacKay, "a great general and a wise and political gentleman," took part in the battle of Solway Moss, and, returning to Edinburgh with James V. three days after the conflict, had certain fortified lands bestowed upon him by the King. In the feuds of the days of Queen Mary and James VI. between the Earls of Caithness and Sutherland, the MacKays took an active part. One day in 1586 while returning from a raid on the Macleods of Assynt the MacKays found themselves pursued by the Sutherland men, who, with the Sinclairs, had set out to harry the Gunns. Just before dawn, they met the Gunns and the two clans joining in onset first overthrew the Sinclairs and then drove off the Sutherland men, on the field of Aultgawn.

Amid such exploits, Aodh, the son of Donald, mentioned above, was imprisoned for a time in Edinburgh Castle because of his turbulence, but his son, another Hugh, married first Lady Elizabeth Sinclair, daughter of the fourth Earl of Caithness, and secondly Lady Jean Gordon,



daughter of the fifteenth Earl of Sutherland, and lived in prodigal fashion on his ancestral estates.

The MacKay chiefs were zealous supporters of the Reformation, and in the beginning of the seventeenth century the chief, Donald MacKay of Far, son of the above Hugh, raised 3,000 men, mostly of his own clan, and sent half of them, under the command of Colonel Robert Munro, to the help of the Protestant King of Bohemia. On the death, almost immediately, of that monarch, the company entered the service of Gustavus of Sweden, and its exploits and famous deeds of valour were made the subject of a notable book, *Munro's Expedition with the Scots' Regiment, the MacKeyes*, published in 1637. The chief himself, Donald MacKay, after some trouble with the Sutherland family at home, carried a reinforcement to the regiment in Germany, and won a high reputation there, while his territory at home enjoyed an unwonted period of repose. After the death of Gustavus, MacKay returned to this country, where, as a reward for his loyal services to Charles I., he was first of all created a Baronet of Nova Scotia in 1627, then raised to the peerage by the title of Lord Reay in 1628. The King also gave him a patent, creating him Earl of Strathnaver, but the title was never completed, owing to the Civil War and the refusal of Parliament to homologate the creation. Unfortunately the MacKay Chief gained his honours at considerable cost, for the enterprise of raising the company which he sent abroad, and the losses which he sustained in support of Charles I., plunged him into money difficulties, which in the end forced the family to part with all its great territories in the North.

Lord Reay himself was one of those excepted from pardon in the treaty between the Covenanters and the King, and was forced to retire to Denmark, where he died in 1649. His wife was the daughter of Lord Kintail, and their son married a daughter of Lieutenant-General Hugh MacKay of Scourie, the famous leader who commanded the troops of William of Orange against the Highland Jacobites under Viscount Dundee at Killiecrankie in 1689.

General MacKay was a sterling soldier if not a brilliant general, and his overthrow at Killiecrankie was perhaps as much the result of the rawness of the levies he commanded as of his own rashness in attempting an almost impossible task. The soundness of his ideas as to the best means of pacifying the Highlands may be judged from the fact that, after wellnigh insuperable difficulties,

he found the means, by private enterprise, of erecting a fort at Inverlochy, which, in honour of the King, he named Fort-William, and which is represented by the town of that name to the present day. And it was owing to MacKay's activity in the months which followed that the efforts of the Jacobite generals, Buchan and Cannon, were again and again rendered futile. By sheer ability he made himself military master of the Highlands, and did so with the least possible bloodshed and without sully-ing his success by vindictive measures of retaliation. He fell at the battle of Steinkirk in 1692.

During Mar's rebellion in 1715 the MacKays took arms for George I., kept the castle and town of Inverness from capture, and held the Jacobite clans of the North in check. Again, in 1745, there were 800 of them under arms on the side of the Government. Still later, in 1795, the Reay fencible regiment, or MacKay Highlanders, were embodied, and on being sent to Ireland, distinguished themselves by a gallant defeat of the rebels at the Hill of Tara.

It was in the time of the seventh baron, Sir Eric MacKay, that a serious change came over the fortunes of the family. During his sail round the coasts of Scotland in the yacht of the Lighthouse Commissioners in 1814, Sir Walter Scott paid a visit to Cape Wrath, where the Commissioners had to fix the site for a lighthouse. It was the day when sheep-farming was being introduced to the Highlands, and in the diary of his voyage Scott makes an interesting entry. "Lord Reay's estate," he says, "containing 150,000 acres, and measuring eighty miles by sixty, was, before commencement of the last leases, rented at £1,200 a year. It is now worth £5,000, and Mr. Anderson says he may let it this ensuing year (when the leases expire) for about £15,000. But then he must resolve to part with his people, for these rents can only be given upon the supposition that sheep are generally to be introduced on the property. In an economical, and perhaps in a political point of view, it might be best that every part of a country were dedicated to that sort of occupation for which nature has best fitted it. But to effect this reform in the present instance, Lord Reay must turn out several hundred families who have lived under him and his fathers for many generations, and the swords of whose fathers probably won the lands from which he is now expelling them. He is a good-natured man, I suppose, for Mr. A. says he is hesitating whether he shall not take a more moderate rise (£7,000 or £8,000), and keep his Highland tenantry. This last war (before the



short peace), he levied a fine fencible corps (the Reay fencibles), and might have doubled their number. Wealth is no doubt strength in a country, while all is quiet and governed by law, but on any altercation or internal commotion, it ceases to be strength, and is only the means of tempting the strong to plunder the possessors. Much may be said on both sides."

The Reay estates, however, as has been already mentioned, were in difficulties, and in the upshot, Eric, seventh Lord Reay, disposed of the whole property to the Earl of Sutherland, by whom were carried out the great "Sutherland clearances," of which so much has been said and written since.

On the death of this Lord Reay the title and chiefship reverted to his cousin, Eneas MacKay, a descendant of the second baron. That second Baron's second son Eneas had followed the first baron's example, carried his sword to the Continent, and become a Brigadier-General and Colonel-proprietor of the MacKay regiment in Holland. His son Donald succeeded him in command of the regiment, and fell at the siege of Tournay in 1745. Each generation had married a daughter of a noble house of the Netherlands, and the family had attained the title of Baron MacKay d'Ophemert. Among his other honours in the Netherlands, Baron MacKay was Minister of State, Vice-President of the Privy Council, and Grand Cross of the Netherland Lion. His wife was a daughter of Baron Fagel, also a Privy Councillor. The new Lord Reay, who remained a Dutch subject, died in 1876, and was succeeded by his son Sir Donald James, the late peer.

Lord Reay was naturalised as a British subject in 1877, and played a highly distinguished part in the affairs of this country. Among his honours he was a Knight of the Thistle, G.C.S.I., G.C.I.E., LL.D., D.Litt., and a Privy Councillor. He was Lord-Lieutenant of Roxburghshire, and Rector of St. Andrews University. He was also Governor of Bombay from 1885 to 1890, Under Secretary for India from 1894 to 1895, and Chairman of the London School Board from 1897 to 1904. He was President of the Royal Asiatic Society, and of University College, London, and was the first President of the British Academy. Besides Lady Reay's seat of Carolside at Earlstoun in Berwickshire, he retained Ophemert in the Netherlands; but his chief interest throughout lay in this country, and his warmest pride was in the fact that he was Chief of the ancient and honourable Clan MacKay.

Not least famous of the name in the eighteenth century

was the poet, Rob Don MacKay. Born in the year before Sheriffmuir, he earned his living as herd, game-keeper, and boatman, and was a member of the Reay Fencibles from 1759 till 1767. His poems are chiefly satires and elegies.

In modern times the Clan has led the way in a movement which promises, more than anything else, to perpetuate the old clan spirit and comradeship. On 21st July, 1806, there was instituted a "M'Kays Society," which was probably the first genuine clan organisation ever formed in the Lowlands. Its purpose was "to raise a fund for the mutual help of each of us in the time of afflictive dispensations," and as "a happy means of establishing unity and good order amongst us." That Society carried on its useful work for fifty years. The present Clan MacKay Society was founded in 1888. It carries on a highly useful benevolent and educational work, has a fund of over £1,600, and counts its influential membership in every part of the world.

## SEPTS OF CLAN MACKAY

Bain  
MacCay  
Macghee  
Mackee  
MacPhail  
Macquoid  
Neilson  
Polson

Bayne  
MacCrie  
Macghie  
Mackie  
Macquey  
Macvail  
Paul  
Williamson



## CLAN MACKENZIE

**BADGE :** Cuilfhion (*Ilex aquifolium*) holly.

**SLOGAN :** Tullach ard.

**PIBROCH :** Failte mhic Choinneach, Fear Comerach, or Applecross, and Cumha mhic Choinneach.

FROM the seventeenth century down to the later nineteenth the origin of the great Clan Mackenzie was commonly supposed to be from a certain Colin Fitzgerald of the great Norman family of the Earls of Desmond and Dukes of Leinster in Ireland. This Colin or Cailean is said to have been driven from Ireland in 1262, and to have found refuge at the Court of Alexander III. of Scotland, under whom he distinguished himself by his valour at the battle of Largs in the following year. So much is stated in the Record of Icolmkill. After that battle he is said to have been established by the King as Governor of Eileandonan, a strong castle in Kintail at the junction of Loch Duich and Loch Long, which has been identified as the Itus of Ptolemy and Richard of Cirencester. The charter of 1266 on which this statement is founded is quoted by Sir George Mackenzie of Tarbat, first Earl of Cromarty, in his MS. history of the Clan Mackenzie written in the seventeenth century, and it has been quoted from his work by later historians of the clan, including the Laird of Applecross in his genealogy of the Mackenzies in 1669.

This last writer proceeds to tell how Cailean acquired the coat of arms first used by the Mackenzie chiefs. The King, it appears, was hunting in the forest of Mar, when a furious stag, brought to bay by the hounds, made straight at him, and he would doubtless have been slain had not Cailean Fitzgerald stepped in front of him, and shot the beast with an arrow through the forehead. For this, it is said, the King granted him for arms a stag's head puissant, bleeding at the forehead, on a field azure, supported by two greyhounds, with, as crest, a dexter arm bearing a naked sword, surrounded with the motto "Fide parta, fide aucta." At a later day the Mackenzies changed this crest and motto for those of the MacLeods of the Lews, to whose possessions they had succeeded in that island.



MACKENZIE



According to the Earl of Cromarty, Cailean Fitzgerald married a daughter of Kenneth MacMhathoin, the Mathieson chief, and had by her one son whom he named Kenneth after his father-in-law. Cailean was afterwards slain by MacMhathoin out of jealousy at the Irish stranger's succession to his ancient heritage, and it was from the son Kenneth that all the later members of the family and clan took their name MacKenneth or Mackenzie.

Cosmo Innes, however, in his *Origines Parochiales Scotiae*, vol. ii, pp. 392-3, points out that the original charter on which this Norman-Irish descent is founded does not exist, and is not in fact genuine, and Skene in his *Celtic Scotland*, quoting an authentic Gaelic MS. of 1450, printed with a translation in the *Transactions of the Iona Club*, shows the Mackenzies to be descended from the same ancestor as the old Earls of Ross. Their common ancestor, according to the MS. genealogy of 1450, was a certain Gillean of the Aird, of the tenth century. Mr. Alexander Mackenzie, author of the latest history of the clan, quotes unquestioned Acts of Parliament and charters to show that the lands of Kintail, with the Castle of Eileandonan, were possessed by the Earls of Ross for a hundred years after the battle of Largs. It seems reasonable that the Mackenzie chiefs, as their near relatives, were entrusted with the lands and castle at an early date, and in any case there is a charter to show that the lands of Kintail were held by Alexander Mackenzie in 1463.

The first chief of the clan who appears with certainty in history is "Murdo filius Kennethi de Kintail" who obtained the charter from David II. in 1362. According to tradition, filling out the Gaelic genealogy of 1450, the name of the clan was derived from this Murdoch's great-grandfather, Kenneth, son of Angus. This Kenneth was in possession of Eileandonan when his relative William, third Earl of Ross who had married his aunt, in pursuit of his claim to the Lordship of the Isles, demanded that the Castle be given up to him. The young chief, however, refused, and, supported by his neighbours the MacIvers, Macaulays, and other families in Kintail, actually resisted and defeated the attacking forces of the Earl. He married a daughter of Macdougall of Lorne, and granddaughter of the Red Comyn slain by Bruce at Dumfries, but his son Ian, who succeeded him in 1304, is said to have taken the part of Robert the Bruce, and actually to have sheltered that monarch for a time within the walls of Eileandonan. He is said to have fought on Bruce's side at the battle of



Inverury in 1308, and to have waited on the King at his visit to Inverness in 1312, and he also led a following said to be five hundred strong of the men of Kintail at the battle of Bannockburn, three years later. His loyalty to Bruce is better understood when it is known that he was married to Margaret, daughter of David de Strathbogie, Earl of Atholl, the warm supporter of that monarch.

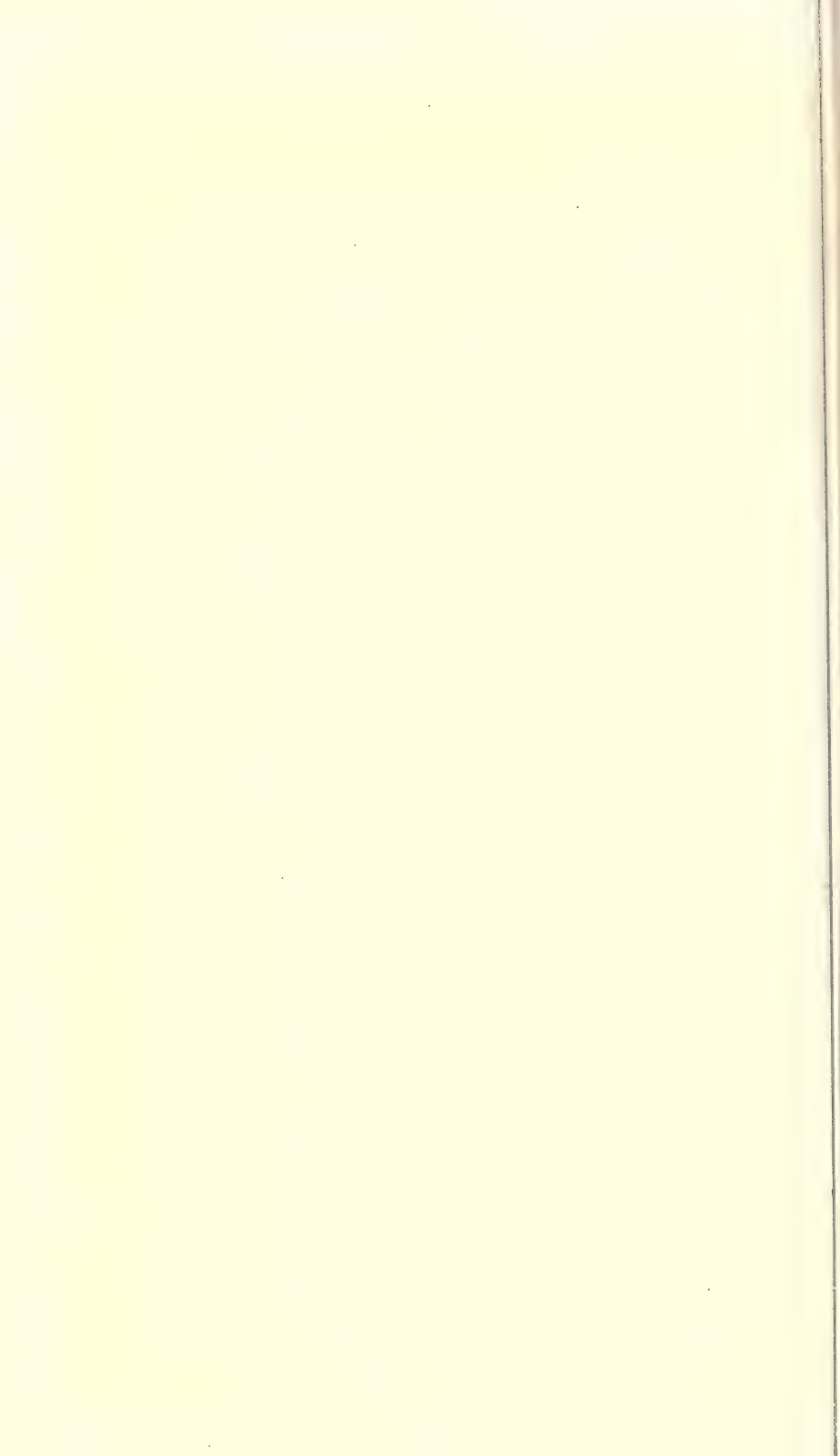
Ian's son, Kenneth of the Nose, had a severe struggle against the fifth Earl of Ross. According to Wyntoun's Chronicle, Randolph, Earl of Moray, paid a visit to Eileandonan in 1331, for the punishment of misdoers, and expressed himself as right blythe at sight of the fifty heads "that flowered so weel that wall," but whether the heads were those of Mackenzies or of Ross' men we do not know. In 1342 the Earl of Ross granted a charter of Kintail to a son of Roderick of the Isles, which charter was confirmed by the King, and in 1350 the Earl actually dated a charter at Eileandonan itself, from which it may be gathered that he had seized the castle. Finally, the Earl's men raided Mackenzie's lands of Kinlochewe; Mackenzie pursued them, killed many, and recovered the spoil; and in revenge the Earl had him seized and executed at Inverness, and granted Kinlochewe to a follower of his own.

Mackenzie had married a daughter of MacLeod of the Lews, and on his execution his friend Duncan Macaulay of Loch Broom sent Murdoch, his young son and heir, to MacLeod for safe keeping, and at the same time prepared to defend Eileandonan against the attacks of the Earl of Ross. He kept the castle against repeated attacks, but a creature of the Earl's, Leod MacGilleandreis, the same who had procured the death of the late chief, and had received a grant of Kinlochewe, laid a trap for Macaulay's only son, and murdered him. At last, however, the young chief Murdoch, having grown up a strong brave youth, procured one of MacLeod's great war galleys full of men, and with a friend, Gille Riabhach, set sail from Stornoway to strike a blow for his heritage. Landing at Sanachan in Kishorn, he marched towards Kinlochewe, and hid his men in a wood while he sent a woman to discover the whereabouts of his enemy. Learning that MacGilleandreis was to meet his followers at a certain ford for a hunting match, Murdoch fell upon him there, and overthrew and slew him. He afterwards married the only daughter of his brave friend and defender Macaulay, and through her succeeded to the lands of Loch Broom and Coigeach. Then, after the return of David II. from his captivity in England, he obtained in 1362 a charter from that monarch



*Photo. W. Ritchie & Sons.*

**BRAHAN CASTLE, ANCIENT SEAT OF THE EARLS OF SEAFORTH**



confirming his rights, and he died in 1375. He was known as Black Murdoch of the Cave, from his resort to wild places for security during his youth and while laying his plans for the overthrow of his enemies.

His son, Murdoch of the Bridge, got his name from a less creditable incident. His wife having no children, and he being anxious to have a successor, he had her waylaid at the Bridge of Scatwell, and thrown into the river. She, however, managed to escape, and made her way to her husband's house at Achilty, coming to his bedside, as the chronicler puts it, "in a fond condition"; whereupon, pitying her case and repenting of the deed, he took her in his arms. A few weeks afterwards she gave birth to a son, and they lived together contentedly all their days. Murdoch was one of the sixteen Highland chiefs who took part under the Earl of Douglas at the battle of Otterbourne, and against all threats he refused to join the Lord of the Isles in his invasion of Scotland which ended at the battle of Harlaw. Murdoch married a daughter of MacLeod of Harris, and as that chief was fourth in descent from Olaf, King of Man, while his wife was daughter of Donald Earl of Mar, nephew of King Robert the Bruce, the blood of two royal houses was thus brought to mix with that of the Mackenzie chiefs.

The next chief, Alastair Ionric, or the Upright, was among the Highland magnates summoned by King James I. to meet him at Inverness in 1427. With the others he was arrested, but, while many of them were executed for their lawless deeds, he, being still a youth, was sent to school at Perth by the King. During his absence his three bastard uncles proceeded to ravage Kinlochewe, whereupon Macaulay, constable of Eileandonan, sent a secret message to the young chief, who, leaving school forthwith, and hastening north, summoned his uncles before him, and, on their proving recalcitrant, made them "shorter by the heads," and so relieved his people of their ravages. In similar case, Alexander, Lord of the Isles, had been sent to Edinburgh by the King, but, escaping north, raised his vassals, burned Inverness, and destroyed the crown lands. On this occasion the young chief of the Mackenzies raised his clan, joined the royal army, and helped to overthrow the island lord. Later, during the rebellion of the Earl of Douglas, the Lord of the Isles, and Donald Balloch, against James II., Mackenzie again stood firm in loyalty to the Crown. For this in 1463 he received a charter confirming him in his lands of Kintail, and in various other possessions. So far these possessions had been held of



the Earls of Ross, but after the rebellion of the Earl of Ross in 1476, when he was compelled to resign his earldom to the Crown, Mackenzie, who again had done loyal service, became a crown vassal, and received a further charter of Strathconan, Strathbran, and Strathgarve, which had been taken from the Earl.

Of Alexander Mackenzie as a young man a romantic story is told. This is to the effect that Euphemia Leslie, Countess Dowager of Ross, set her fancy upon him, and desired him to marry her. Upon his refusal she turned her love to hatred, and made him a prisoner at Dingwall. Then, by bribing his page, she procured his ring, and sending it to Eileandonan induced Macaulay the constable to yield up the castle to her. To secure his master's freedom Macaulay seized Ross of Balnagown, the countess's grand-uncle. He was pursued by the vassals of the Earl of Ross, and at Bealach na Broige a desperate conflict took place. Macaulay, however, carried off his man, and presently, managing to surprise Eileandonan, kept the countess's governor and garrison, along with Balnagown, in captivity until they were exchanged for the Mackenzie chief. The conflict of Bealach na Broige, the Pass of the Shoe, took place in 1452, and was so named from the Highlanders tying their shoes to their breasts to defend themselves against the arrows of their opponents. Many other romantic stories are told of the sixth chief. He was so far the greatest man of his name, and when he died at the age of ninety in 1488 he left the house of Mackenzie one of the most powerful clans in the north.

Till now the succession to the Mackenzie family had depended always upon a single heir. Alexander the sixth chief, however, was twice married. By his first wife, Anna daughter of MacDougall of Dunolly, he had two sons, the elder of whom succeeded him, and by his second wife, daughter of MacDonald of Morar, he had one son, Hector who became ancestor of the Gairloch family.

The seventh chief, Kenneth of the Battle, got his name from his part in the battle of Blair na pairc, fought during his father's lifetime near their residence at Kinellan, a mile and a half from the modern spa of Strathpeffer. To close the old family feud, Kenneth had married Margaret daughter of John of Isla, Lord of the Isles, but John of Isla's nephew and heir, Alexander of Lochalsh, making a feast at Balcony House, invited to it, among other chiefs, Kenneth Mackenzie. On Mackenzie arriving with forty followers he was told that the house was already full, but that a lodging had been provided for him in the kiln.

Enraged at the insult, he struck the seneschal to the ground, and left the house. Four days later he was ordered with his father to leave Kinellan, which they held as tenants of the island lord. Kenneth returned a message that he would stay where he was, but would return his wife, and he accordingly sent the lady back with the utmost ignominy. The lady had only one eye, and he sent her on a one-eyed horse accompanied by a one-eyed attendant and a one-eyed dog. A few days later, with two hundred men he besieged Lord Lovat in his castle, and demanded his daughter Anne in marriage. Lord Lovat and his daughter agreed, and ever afterwards Kenneth and the lady lived as husband and wife.

Meanwhile MacDonald had raised an army of sixteen hundred men, marched northward through the Mackenzie lands, burning and slaying, and at Contin on a Sunday morning set fire to the church in which the old men, women, and children had taken refuge, and burned the whole to ashes. Then he ordered his followers to be drawn up on the neighbouring moor for review. But Kenneth Mackenzie, though he had only six hundred men, proved an able leader. He succeeded in entangling his enemies in a peat bog, and when they were thrown into confusion by a discharge from his hidden archers, fell upon them and put them to flight. This invasion cost the Macdonalds the Lordship of the Isles, which was declared by Parliament a forfeit to the Crown.

Kenneth was on his way with five hundred men under the Earl of Huntly to support James III. when news reached him of his father's death, and Huntly sent him home to see to his affairs, and so he missed taking part in the battle of Sauchieburn, at which James fell. He was afterwards knighted by James IV., and died in 1491.

The eighth chief, Kenneth the Younger, was the son of the daughter of the Lord of the Isles whom his father had so unceremoniously sent home. Along with the young Mackintosh chief he was secured in Edinburgh castle by James IV. as a hostage for his clan. After a time the two lads escaped, and reached the Torwood. Here they met the Laird of Buchanan, then an outlaw, and he, to secure the remission for his outlawry, surrounded the house at night with his followers and demanded surrender. Mackenzie rushed out sword in hand, and was shot with an arrow.

This was in 1497. The next chief, John of Killin, Kenneth's half-brother, was considered illegitimate by many of the clan, though the marriage of his mother had



been legitimated by the Pope in the last year of her husband's life. The estates were seized by the young chief's uncle, Hector Roy, ancestor of the Gairloch family. But Lord Lovat procured a precept of clare constat to protect his nephew's interest, and Munro of Fowlis, Lieutenant of Ross, proceeded to Kinellan to punish the usurper. As Munro was returning, however, he was ambushed at Knockfarrel by Hector Roy, and most of his men slain. Hector also defeated a royal force sent against him by the Earl of Huntly in 1499. At last, however, his nephew John, with a chosen band, beset him in his house at Fairburn, and set the place on fire. Hector thereupon surrendered, and it was agreed that he should possess the estates till the young chief was twenty-one years of age, whereupon Eileandonan was delivered up to the latter. Both the chief John and his uncle Hector Roy took part in the battle of Flodden, and, strange to say, both escaped and returned home, though most of their followers fell. The chief was taken prisoner by the English, but escaped through the kindness of the wife of a shipmaster with whom he was lodged, and whose life had been saved in dire extremity by a clansman in the Mackenzie country, who by killing and disembowelling his horse and placing her inside during a terrible storm had preserved her and her new-born child.

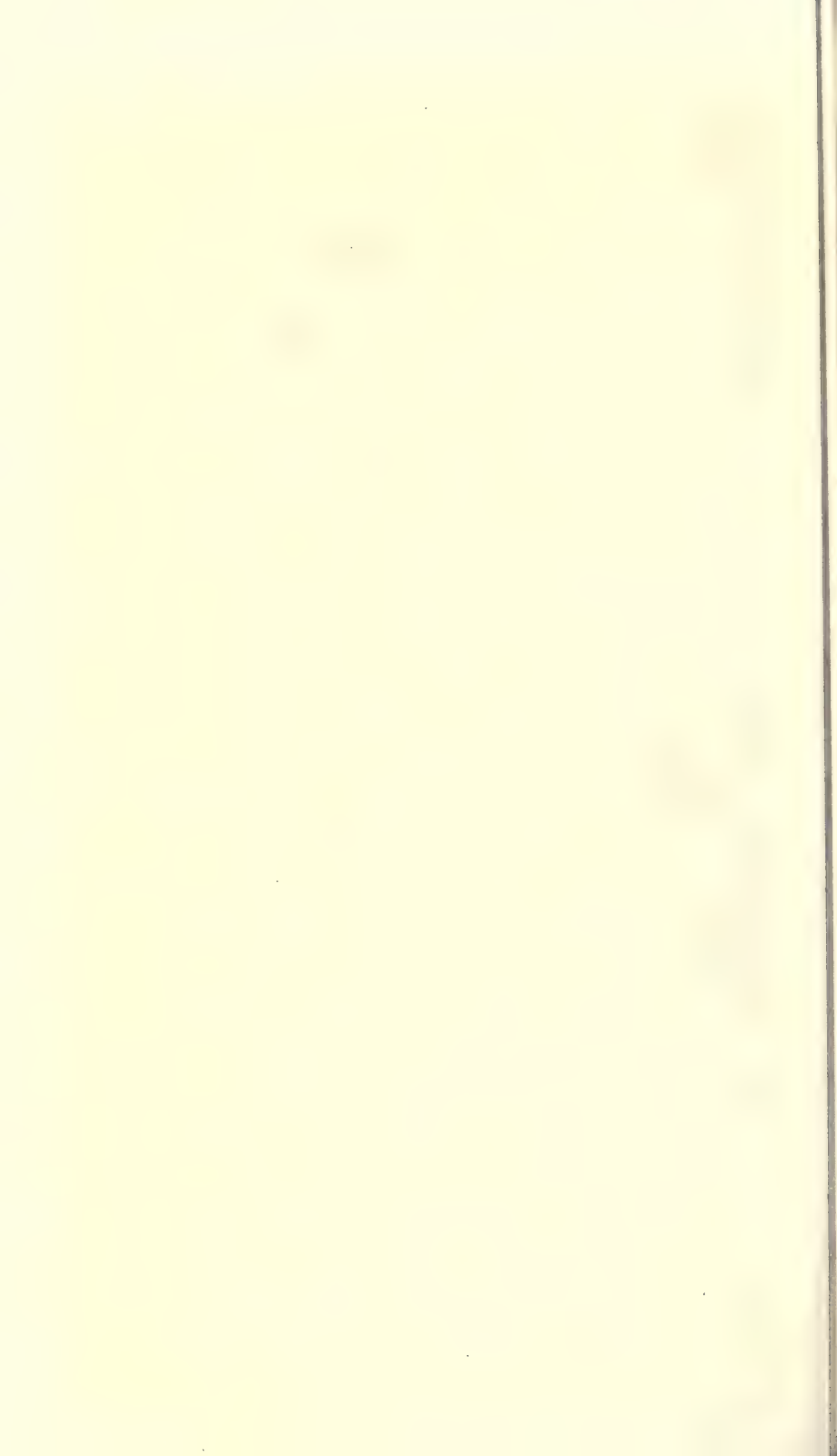
Upon coming into possession of Eileandonan John Mackenzie made Gilchrist MacRae constable of the castle, and before long the MacRaes had an opportunity to show their mettle in this post. In 1539 MacDonald of Sleat laid waste the lands of MacLeod of Dunvegan and his friend the Mackenzie chief, killing the son of Finly MacRae, then Governor of Eileandonan. Mackenzie thereupon despatched a force to Skye which made reprisals in MacDonald's country. MacDonald, hearing that Eileandonan was left ungarrisoned, made a raid upon it with fifty birlinns. The only men in the castle were the governor, the watchman, and Duncan MacRae. Presently the governor fell, and MacRae found himself left with a single arrow. Watching his chance, however, he shot MacDonald in the foot, severing the main artery, and causing him to bleed to death. For the overthrow of the MacDonalds King James conferred further possessions on Mackenzie. Old as he was, Mackenzie fought for the child-Queen Mary at the battle of Pinkie, where he was taken prisoner. His clansmen, however, showed their affection by paying his ransom. John Mackenzie added greatly to the family estates in Brae Ross, and many a



*Photo. W. Ritchie & Sons.*

CASTLE LEOD, STRATHPEFFER, SEAT OF THE MACKENZIES OF TARBAT,  
EARLS OF CROMARTIE





quaint story is told of his shrewdness and sagacity before he died at the age of eighty in 1561.

Like so many of the early chiefs John had an only son, Kenneth of the Whittle, so named from his dexterity with the skian dhu. He was among the chiefs who helped Queen Mary to get possession of Inverness Castle when refused by the governor, Alexander Gordon; and on the Queen's escape from Loch Leven, his son Colin was sent by the Earl of Huntly to advise her retreat to Stirling till her friends could be gathered. The advice was rejected, and Colin fought for the Queen at Langside. In Kenneth's time a tragedy occurred at Eileandonan. John Glassich, son and successor to Hector Roy Mackenzie of Gairloch, fell under suspicion of an intention to renew his father's claim to be chief of the clan. Mackenzie therefore had him arrested and sent to Eileandonan, and there he was poisoned by the Constable's lady. This chief married a daughter of the Earl of Atholl, and from his third son Roderick was descended the family of Redcastle.

The eleventh chief, One-Eyed Colin, was a special favourite at Court, and, like all his forebears, an able administrator of his own estate.

The Mackenzies were now strong enough to defy even the Earl of Huntly. This great noble was preparing to destroy Mackintosh of Mackintosh, whose wife was Mackenzie's sister. Mackenzie sent asking that she should be treated with courtesy, and Huntly rudely replied that he would "cut her tail above her houghs." The Mackenzie chief was at Brahan Castle in delicate health, but next day, his brother Roderick of Redcastle crossed the ferry of Ardersier with four hundred clansmen, and when Huntly approached the Mackintosh stronghold in the Loch of Moy he saw this formidable force marching to intercept him. "Yonder," said one of his officers, "is the effect of your answer to Mackenzie." The effect was so unquestionable that Huntly found it prudent to retire to Inverness.

In One-Eyed Colin's time, about 1580, one of the most desperate feuds in Highland history broke out, between the Mackenzies and the MacDonalds of Glengarry, whose chief owned considerable parts of the neighbouring territories of Lochalsh, Loch Carron, and Loch Broom. The feud began by Glengarry ill-using Mackenzie's tenants. It came to strife with the killing of a Glengarry gentleman as a poacher, and before it was ended, in the next chief's time, it had brought about some of the most tragic events in Highland history.

This next chief Kenneth, twelfth of his line, was a man of singular ability, who managed to turn the MacDonald and other feuds directly to the increase of his house's territory and influence. While Mackenzie was in France, Glengarry's son, Angus MacDonald and his cousins, committed several outrages, slaying and burning Mackenzie clansmen, and, on the Mackenzies retaliating, had the chief summoned at the Pier of Leith to appear before the Council on pain of forfeiture. Through the prompt action of a clansman, however, Mackenzie managed to return in time, turned the tables on his enemy, and had him declared an outlaw, and ordered to pay him a very large sum by way of damages. He then marched into Morar, routed the MacDonalds, and brought back to Kintail the largest creagh ever heard of in the Highlands. The MacDonalds retaliated with a raid on Kinlochewe, killing women and children, and destroying all the cattle. Angus MacDonald also proceeded to raise his kinsmen in the Isles against Mackenzie, and while the latter was absent in Mull, seeking help from his brother-in-law, MacLean of Duart, he made a great descent, burning and slaying, on Kintail.

Then a notable incident occurred: Lady Mackenzie at Eileandonan had only a single galley at home, but she armed it and sent it out to waylay MacDonald. It was a calm moonlight night in November, with occasional showers of snow, and Mackenzie's galley lay in wait in the shadows below Kyle-rhea. Presently as the tide rose a boat shot through. He let it pass, knowing it to be MacDonald's scout. Then they saw a great galley coming through, and made straight for it, firing a cannon with which Lady Mackenzie had provided them. In the confusion MacDonald's galley ran on the Cailleach rock and every one of the sixty men on board, including Angus MacDonald himself, was slain or drowned.

Mackenzie also took and destroyed Glengarry's stronghold, Strome Castle. Then Allan Dubh MacDonald, Glengarry's cousin, made a raid on Mackenzie's lands of Brae Ross, and on a Sunday morning, while all the people were at divine service in the church of Cillechroist, set fire to the fane, and burnt men, women, and children to ashes, while his piper marched round the building, drowning their shrieks with a pibroch which ever since, under the name of "Cillechroist," has remained the family tune of Glengarry. As the MacDonalds returned home they were pursued by the Mackenzies, who came up with them, as morning broke, on the southern ridge of



Glen Urquhart above Loch Ness. Like Bruce on a famous occasion, Allan Dubh divided his men again and again, but the Mackenzies were not thrown off his track, and presently he found himself alone with Mackenzie of Coul at his heels. In desperation he made for the fearful ravine of the Aultsigh Burn, and sprang across. Mackenzie followed him, but missed his footing, slipped, and hung suspended by a hazel branch. At that MacDonald turned, hewed off the branch, and sent his pursuer to death in the fearful chasm below. He himself then escaped by swimming across Loch Ness. The feud was ended by Mackenzie, in 1607, obtaining a crown charter of the MacDonald lands in Loch Alsh, Loch Carron, and elsewhere, for which he paid MacDonald ten thousand merks, while MacDonald agreed to hold his other lands off him as feudal superior.

Another great addition to Mackenzie's territories occurred in the time of the same chief. Torquil MacLeod of the Lews had married as his second wife a daughter of John Mackenzie of Killin, but he disinherited her son Torquil Cononach, and adopted his eldest son by a third wife as his heir. Torquil Cononach was protected by Mackenzie, and recognised as the heir by the Government, and upon his half-brother raiding Mackenzie's territory the latter obtained letters of fire and sword against him. At the same time Torquil Cononach, his two sons being slain, made over his rights in the island to Mackenzie. Then came the attempt of the Fife adventurers, who obtained a grant of the Lews and tried to colonise and civilise it. After much disturbance they were ruined and driven out, and a later effort of the Earl of Huntly fared no better. Mackenzie then in virtue of Torquil Cononach's resignation, had his possession of the Lews confirmed by charter under the Great Seal, and, proceeding there with seven hundred men, brought the whole island to submission. In recognition of this service to law and order James VI. in 1609 conferred a peerage on the chief, as Lord Mackenzie of Kintail.

Only a small band of MacLeods kept up resistance in the Lews, and this was brought to an end in a dramatic way. On the death of Lord Mackenzie in 1611 he was succeeded by his son, Colin the Red. During his minority the estates were managed by Sir Roderick Mackenzie of Coigeach. The remnant of the MacLeods had held out on the impregnable rock of Berrisay for three years when the tutor of Kintail gathered all their wives, children, and relations, placed them on a tidal rock



within sight of MacLeod's stronghold, and declared that he would leave them there to drown unless MacLeod instantly surrendered. This MacLeod did, and so the last obstacle to Mackenzie's possession was removed, and "The inhabitants adhered most loyally to the illustrious house, to which they owed such peace and prosperity as was never before experienced in the history of the island."

This latest addition vastly increased the possessions of the Mackenzie chief, who was moreover a great favourite at the court of James VI., and in 1623 he was created Earl of Seaforth and Viscount Fortrose. The Earl lived in his castle of Chanonry in the Black Isle in great magnificence, making a state voyage with a fleet of vessels round his possessions every two years. He built the castle of Brahan and Chanonry while his tutor, Sir Roderick of Coigeach, ancestor of the Earl of Cromartie, built Castle Leod.

His brother George, who succeeded as second Earl and fourteenth chief in 1633, played a very undecided and self-seeking part in the civil wars of Charles I., appearing now on the Covenant's side and now on the King's, as appeared most to his advantage. He fought against Montrose at Auldearn, but afterwards joined him. Upon this he was excommunicated and imprisoned by the Covenanters for a time, and he died while secretary to King Charles II. in Holland in 1651, upon news of the defeat of the young King at Worcester.

His eldest son, Kenneth Mor, the third Earl, joined Charles II. at Stirling in his attempt for the crown, and after the defeat at Worcester had his estates forfeited by Cromwell and remained a close prisoner till the Restoration, when he was made Sheriff of Ross. He died in 1678.

His eldest son, Kenneth Og, the fourth Earl, was made a member of the Privy Council and a companion of the Order of the Thistle by James VII.

It was the time of the later Covenanters, and two of Seaforth's relatives had the chief direction of affairs in Scotland—Sir George Mackenzie of Tarbat, afterwards first Earl of Cromartie, as Lord Justice-General, and Sir George Mackenzie of Rosehaugh as Lord Advocate. Both were, in private, amiable and learned men, but as officials they showed little mercy to rebels, as they considered the upholders of the Covenant.

At the Revolution the Earl accompanied King James to France, and after taking part in the siege of Londonderry and the battle of the Boyne, was created a Marquess

at the exiled court. But the fortunes of his house had reached their climax, and he died an exile.

It was his only son, William Dubh, the fifth Earl, who took part in the Earl of Mar's rebellion in 1715. As a Jacobite he raised three thousand men, and fought at the battle of Sheriffmuir. For this his earldom and estates were forfeited. Four years later, on the breaking out of war with Spain, he sailed with the Spanish expedition, and landed in Kintail, but was wounded and defeated by General Wightman at Glenshiel. During his exile afterwards in France the Government completely failed to take possession of his estates. These were defended by his faithful factor, Donald Murchison, who had been a colonel at Sheriffmuir, and who now skilfully kept the passes and collected the rents, which he sent to his master abroad. At last, in 1726, on his clansmen giving up their arms to General Wade, they and Seaforth himself received a pardon. Sad to say, on the chief returning home he treated Murchison with rude ingratitude, and the factor died of a broken heart.

The Seaforth title remained under attainder, and the Earl's son Kenneth, the eighteenth chief, who succeeded in 1740, remained known by his courtesy title as Lord Fortrose. The estates were purchased on his behalf for £26,000, and on the outbreak of the Jacobite rebellion of 1745 he remained loyal to the Government. His kinsman, the Earl of Cromartie, who had then probably more influence with the clan, took the side of the Prince with a considerable number of men, and in consequence lay under sentence of death for a time. It was one of the name, Roderick Mackenzie, son of a goldsmith in Edinburgh, who, on being cut down in Glen Morriston, called out, "You have slain your Prince!" and from his likeness to Charles threw the scent off his royal master for a space, and so helped his escape.

Lord Fortrose died in 1761. His only son Kenneth, known as "the little Lord," was created Earl of Seaforth in the peerage of Ireland in 1771. Seven years later he raised a regiment of 1,130 men, but on his way with it to India died near St. Helena in 1781.

The Earl was without a son, and in 1779, being heavily embarrassed, had sold the Seaforth estates to his cousin and heir male, Colonel Thomas F. Mackenzie Humberston. The father of the latter was a grandson of the third Earl, and had taken the name Humberston on inheriting the estates of his mother's family. Colonel Humberston had been chief for no more than two years when he was killed



in an attack by the Mahrattas on the " Ranger " sloop of war out of Bombay.

He was succeeded by his brother Francis Humberston Mackenzie, as twenty-first chief. In the war with France this chief raised two battalions of his clansmen, which were known as the Ross-shire Buffs, now the Seaforth Highlanders, and as a reward was made lord-lieutenant of Ross-shire, and a peer of the United Kingdom, with the title of Lord Seaforth. As Governor of Barbadoes he put an end to slavery in that island, and altogether, though very deaf and almost dumb, achieved a great reputation by his abilities. These drew forth from Sir Walter Scott an eloquent tribute in his *Lament for the last of the Seaforths*:

In vain, the bright course of thy talents to wrong,  
Fate deadened thine ear and imprisoned thy tongue,  
For brighter o'er all her obstructions arose  
The glow of thy genius they could not oppose;  
And who in the land of the Saxon or Gael  
Could match with Mackenzie, High Chief of Kintail.

It was in the person of this chief that the prediction of the Brahan Seer was fulfilled. This prediction, widely known throughout the Highlands for generations before it was accomplished, declared that when a deaf Mackenzie should be chief, and four other heads of families should have certain physical defects, the house of Seaforth should come to an end. So it happened. At this time Sir Hector Mackenzie of Gairloch was buck-toothed; Chisholm of Chisholm was hare-lipped; Grant of Grant was half-witted; and MacLeod of Raasay was a stammerer. So it came about. Lord Seaforth's four sons all died before him unmarried; from his own indulgence in high play he was forced to sell, first a part of Lochalsh, and afterwards Kintail and other estates, and when he died the remainder passed to his eldest daughter, Lady Hood, then a widow. This lady afterwards married Stewart of Glasserton, a cadet of the house of Galloway, himself distinguished as a member of parliament, governor of Ceylon, and Lord High Commissioner to the Ionian Islands. He took the name of Mackenzie, and at his lady's death at Brahan Castle in 1862, she was succeeded in possession of the estates by her eldest son Keith William Stewart Mackenzie, of Seaforth.

Meanwhile the chiefship of the clan passed to James Fowler Mackenzie of Allangrange, as lineal representative of Simon Mackenzie of Lochshin, seventh son of Kenneth,

first Lord Mackenzie. It is interesting to note that the eldest son of Simon Mackenzie was Sir George Mackenzie of Rosehaugh, Lord Advocate, author of the famous *Institutes of Scots Law*, founder of the Advocate's Library, and well known as "the Bluidy Mackenzie" of Covenanted folklore. Sir George's sons, however, all died without male heirs. Through his daughter Agnes, who married the Earl of Bute, his estates passed to that family, and the succession was carried on by his younger brother, Simon. Since the death of Allangrange some years ago the title to the chiefship has been uncertain. It probably remains with a descendant of the Hon. Simon Mackenzie of Lochshin by his second wife, until recently Mackenzie of Dundonnell; but several of the sons of this family are untraced. Besides this line there are many cadet branches of the ancient house, and it remains for one of those interested to trace out the actual chiefship. In several instances, such as those of the houses of Gairloch and of Tarbat, the latter of whom became Earls of Cromartie, the history is only less romantic than that of the chiefs themselves; but for these the reader must be referred to the work already quoted, *The History of the Clan Mackenzie*, by Alexander Mackenzie, published in Inverness in 1879.

## SEPTS OF CLAN MACKENZIE

Kenneth  
MacBeolain  
MacIver  
MacKerlich  
MacVinish  
Murchison

Kennethson  
MacConnach  
MacIvor  
MacMurchie  
MacVanish  
Murchie



## CLAN MACKINNON

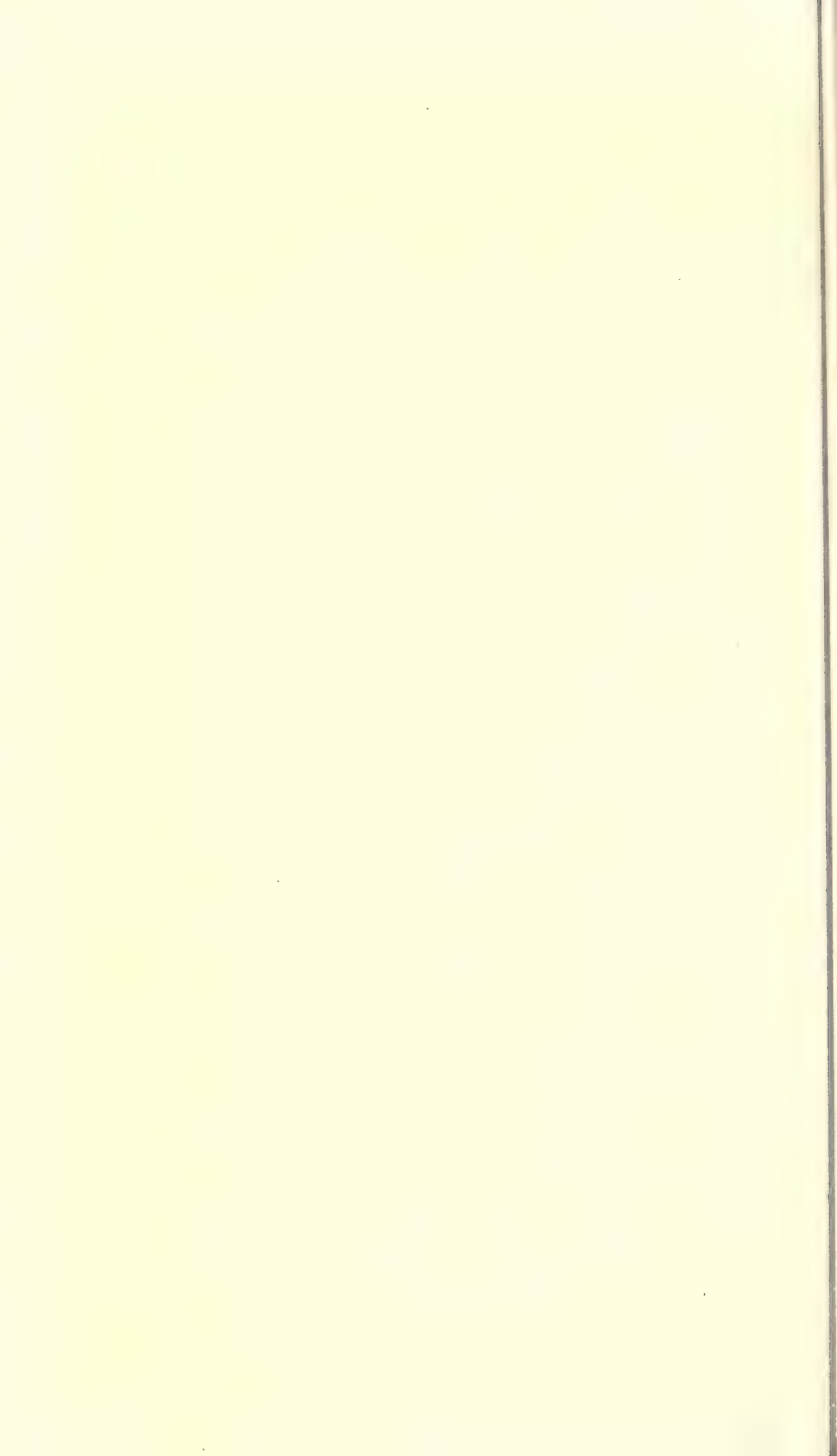
BADGE : Giuthas (*pinus sylvestris*) pine.  
SLOGAN : Cuimhnich bas Alpin.

A POETICAL derivation of the name Mackinnon has been suggested from MacIonmhuinn, the Son of Love, and the monkish writers of feudal centuries Latinised it as Findanus. Several Finans or Finons are to be found in the list of Culdee saints, and one of the Pictish kings, of the year 645 was named Loceni MacFhinnon or Mac'innon. But universal tradition attributes the name and the origin of the clan to Fingon, grandson of Gregor, son of Alpin, King of Scots, beheaded by the Picts on Dundee Law in the year 834. This tradition is supported by the fact that the clan badge is the same as that of other clans claiming descent from Gregor and Alpin, and also by two bonds of manrent executed in the seventeenth century. In one of these, of the year 1606, Lauchlan Mackinnon of Strathardle and Finlay Macnab of Bowain having met at Uir in Breadalbane, declared that "being come of ane house, and being of ane surname and lineage," bound themselves to support each other in all time coming. In the other, at Kilmory in 1671, James MacGregor of that ilk and Lauchlan MacFingon of Strathardle, "condescending that they are descended lawfullie frae twa brether of auld descent," obliged themselves, their successors, kin, and friends to support each other against all men, the King only excepted.

The tradition runs that the original Fingon brought his following from the mainland to the island of Mull, and that he also owned Mackinnon's or Findanus' Castle in Skye. The early chiefs also owned lands in the island of Arran. Gribun, in Mull, appears to have been their original seat, and their property in this island was of considerable extent. They had lands as well in the island of Tiree. Strathardle in Skye, which was afterwards to become their chief seat, they acquired through a custom then very prevalent among the Highland and Island chiefs. A Mackinnon heir had been sent to Skye to be "fostered" or brought up in the house of Gillies, the



MACKINNON



owner of that extensive property. Gillies had an only son and a nephew, and on one occasion these two young men, while hunting on the island of Pabay, quarrelled and came to blows. In the conflict both of them were slain. Being then without heirs, Gillies, having become attached to young Mackinnon, left him the whole of his estate. To this Mackinnon by excambion added the islands of Pabay and Scalpa. Apparently at an early date the clan was powerful enough to be a menace to the Macdougall Lords of Lorn. According to Gregory, "The first authentic notice of this ancient tribe is to be found in an indenture between the Lord of the Isles and the Lord of Lorn. The latter stipulates, in surrendering the Island of Mull and other lands to the Lord of the Isles, that the keeping of the castle of Kerneburg, in the Treshnish Isles, is not to be given to any of the race of Clan Finnon." Under the Lords of the Isles, the Mackinnons were hereditary custodians of the standards of weights and measures.

The first check which the fortunes of the family received was brought about by an act of the Mackinnon chief himself. On the death in 1380 of John, Lord of the Isles, Mackinnon took arms in an endeavour to secure the succession for his younger son, Ian Mor. In this attempt Mackinnon was joined by the Macleans and Macleods, but their united forces proved unsuccessful against the elder son, Donald, who vindicated his right to the Lordship of the Isles. Iain Mor, afterwards known as "the Tanister," was driven into exile in Ireland, but was afterwards pardoned and founded the Clan Iain Mhor, or Clan Donald South, of Islay and Kintyre. Mackinnon was less happy. As leader of the formidable insurrection he was put to death.

Meanwhile the Clan Maclean had increased in power in the island of Mull, and almost inevitably came into rivalry and collision with the Mackinnons. Lachlan Lubanach, first of the Macleans of Duart, had become Steward to the Lord of the Isles, had married his daughter Mary, and had received charters of Duart, Brolas, and other lands, and apparently there was bad blood between him, his brother, Hector Reaganach, and Mackinnon. The climax came on a day in the year 1400, when the Lord of the Isles, who had been hunting in Mull, set out to return to Ardtornish Castle, his stronghold on the opposite shore of the Sound of Mull. As Mackinnon was stepping into his galley to follow, Lachlan and Hector Maclean fell upon him and slew him. They then disarmed



his men, and hastening after the Lord of the Isles, seized his galley and forced him to grant them an indemnity for the deed.

Of the feud with the Macleans which followed many incidents are related. On one occasion the young Chief of the Mackinnons was forced to seek refuge in Ireland. There the Earl of Antrim gave him forty young gentlemen to support him. The party landed at Camus na fola, the Bloody Bay a couple of miles north-west of Tobermory in Mull, and to discover the whereabouts of his enemies Mackinnon paid a visit to an old woman of his clan who lived in a certain lonely glen. He told her he had forty men to carry out an attack. She replied, "Do as I tell you, and you will have possession of your lands by sunrise." Following her counsel he took to the woods with his party, where each man cut and stripped a caber. Surrounding Ledaig House, where Duart and Lochbuie lay asleep, they planted their cabers in the ground, the Chief placing his before the door with his naked sword hung on it. In the morning the astonished Macleans, realising who had been their visitor, and that he could easily have taken their lives if he had wished, sent for Mackinnon and restored his lands.

On another occasion the Mackinnon chief, then a mere lad, was entrusted to the care of Maclean of Brolas, who was his godfather, who took charge of his titles and charters. By and by, hearing that Maclean had gone to Edinburgh to settle his affairs, and had returned, Mackinnon went to see him. At Brolas, however, he found at the door-side a burning stick, the sign that there was sickness in the house and that no visitors were being admitted. On returning next day he found that Maclean was dead, and when he asked the new laird for his papers the latter said he knew nothing about them, but was quite sure that, if his father had them it was because Mackinnon owed him money, and that, if ever he found them he should keep papers and lands together. The papers were never returned.

An appeal to arms was not more fortunate. In a desperate battle between the two clans at Doire Shuaig, the day was going for the Mackinnons when one of them, who had married a Maclean, deserted with all his followers. Mackinnon fled to a cavern fastness at Gribun, but presently Maclean discovered it and proceeded to smoke the place. Some of the Mackinnons, however, managed to get a boat in time, rowed him to Staffa, and hid him in the great cavern there which is still known

from this fact as Mackinnon's Cave, till he could escape to Skye. In this way the Mackinnons lost their lands of Gribun and Inchkenneth, as well as Mishnish, their later possession near Tobermory.

In those stormy and eventful centuries several of the race became Abbots of Iona. The last of them was John, who, with his father, Lachlan, raised the sculptured monument known as Mackinnon's Cross, over the graves of his family in the Reilig Oran, and whose effigy is still to be seen on an altar tomb in the chancel of the cathedral. He died in the year 1500.

Thenceforth the seat of the Mackinnon chiefs was at Strathardle in Skye. The twenty-sixth of the line, Sir Lachlan, was a man of much importance in the islands, and in 1628, the year before his death, his estate was erected into a barony by Charles I.

A few years later, in 1639, the Covenanting Government under Argyll considered it desirable to check the pretensions of the Island chiefs. Accordingly in a court held at Iona, it was enacted that Mackinnon and others of his rank should sustain and entertain no more than three gentlemen in their retinue. None must carry hagbuts or pistols, and only the chiefs and their immediate households were permitted to wear swords and armour. A chief was to keep no more than one birlinn or galley of eighteen oars; no bards or seannachies were to be retained, and gentlemen of Mackinnon's rank were to use no more than one tun of wine in a year.

In the Civil Wars of Charles I., the Mackinnons were staunchly loyal. Joining the gallant Marquess of Montrose in 1645, they played a brilliant part at the desperate battles of Auldearn and Inverlochy, in the latter of which Argyll's force was cut to pieces with a loss of fifteen hundred men.

The chief of that time, Lachlan Mor Mackinnon, had been brought up at Inveraray by Argyll, but had married a daughter of Maclean of Duart. In 1649 he was induced by that chief to join in an attack with two hundred followers on the lands of his former guardian. The enterprise proved disastrous. Recognising the assailants by the badge in their bonnets, the Campbells attacked furiously, giving no quarter, and the Mackinnons were cut to pieces.

Two years later, the young King, Charles II., having landed in Scotland, Mackinnon raised a battalion from his lands in Skye, and marched to Worcester. There he is said to have saved the King's life and to have been



knighted on the field in consequence, but the honour was not confirmed at the Restoration.

In the Jacobite rising of 1715 the Mackinnons joined the Earl of Mar, and took part at the battle of Sheriffmuir, and in 1745-6 they marched to Derby with Prince Charles Edward, and helped to win the battle of Falkirk. Half of them fell at Culloden. The other half on the same day completely broke up Lord Loudoun's force in Sutherlandshire.

In the romantic adventures of the Prince which followed, Mackinnon bore an outstanding part. It was on 2nd July that Charles took refuge with them in Skye. That night they rowed him over to the mainland, and after many adventures handed him safely to Angus Macdonald at Borrodale. Next day Mackinnon was taken prisoner, and after a year's confinement in Tilbury Fort, was tried for his life. He had been attainted, and was excepted from the Act of Indemnity passed in 1747, but was pardoned on account of his years and of the fact that he had acted rather from a spirit of chivalry than of rebellion. As he was leaving the court the Attorney-General asked him, "If King George were in your power, as you have been in his, what would you do?" To which Mackinnon replied, "I would do to him, as he has this day done to me; I would send him back to his own country."

As a result of these events the Mackinnons had to part with Strathardle in 1765. Since then they have been landless in the ancient country of their clan, and the last Chief of the senior line died unmarried and in reduced circumstances in 1808. He was the great-grandson of John, elder son of Lachlan Mor, who fought for Charles II. at the battle of Worcester. On that event the chiefship passed to the representative of Lachlan Mor's second son Donald. At Worcester this Donald was taken prisoner. On his release he went to Antigua in the West Indies, where, by a common corruption he was called Daniel, and it was his great-great-grandson, William Alexander Mackinnon, who became thirty-third Chief in 1808. He sat in Parliament almost uninterruptedly from 1819 till 1865. His representative, the present Chief, who resides at Gollanfield near Inverness, is an enthusiast for all things Highland. His wife is the elder daughter of the late Lord Hood of Avalon and a niece of Sir Fitzroy Donald Maclean, Bart., of Duart; and of his sons the elder at the beginning of the war of 1914 held a commission in the 1st Battalion Cameron

Highlanders, and the second was a sub-lieutenant in the Royal Navy.

In the tale of members of the clan who have distinguished themselves in the service of their country in recent times, must be included Major-General Henry Mackinnon, who fell leading his brigade at Ciudad Rodrigo in 1812, and Colonel Daniel Mackinnon who commanded the Coldstream Guards at Waterloo and held the farm of Hougomont till he fell severely wounded. He afterwards wrote the *History of the Coldstream Guards*. Others have been General George Henry Mackinnon of the Grenadiers, who fought in the Kaffir War of 1846-7, and became Chief Commissioner of British Kaffraria; Colonel Lionel Mackinnon of the Coldstreams, killed at Inkerman; and Colonel William Alexander Mackinnon, who distinguished himself in the Indian Mutiny, while in another field was Sir William Mackinnon, Bart., founder of the British India Steam Navigation Company.

## SEPTS OF CLAN MACKINNON

Love  
MacKinning  
MacMorran

MacKinney  
Mackinven



## CLAN MACKINTOSH

**BADGE :** Lus nam braoileag (vaccineum vitis idæa) Red whortleberry.

**SLOGAN :** Loch Moidh!

**PIBROCH :** Cu'a' Mhic an Tosaich.

Two chief authorities support different versions of the origin of this famous clan. Skene in his *Highlanders of Scotland* and in his later *Celtic Scotland*, founding on a manuscript of 1467, takes the clan to be a branch of the original Clan Chattan, descended from Ferchar fada, son of Fearadach, of the tribe of Lorne, King of Dalriada, who died in the year 697. The historian of the clan, on the other hand, Mr. A. M. Mackintosh, founding on the history of the family written about 1679 by Lachlan Mackintosh of Kinrara, brother of the eighteenth chief, favours the statement that the clan is descended from Shaw, second son of Duncan, third Earl of Fife, which Shaw is stated to have proceeded with King Malcolm IV. to suppress a rebellion of the men of Moray in 1163, and, as a reward for his services, to have been made keeper of the Royal Castle of Inverness and possessor of the lands of Petty and Breachley, in the north-east corner of Inverness-shire, with the forest of Strathdearne on the upper Findhorn. These, in any case, are the districts found in occupation of the family in the fifteenth century, when authentic records become available. The early chiefs are said to have resided in Inverness Castle, and, possibly as a result, the connection of the family with that town has always been most friendly.

Shaw's youngest son, Duncan, was killed at Tordhean in 1190, in leading an attack upon a raiding party of Islesmen under Donald Baan, who had ravaged the country almost to the castle walls. Shaw, the first chief, died in 1179. His eldest son, Shaw, was appointed Toisach, or factor, for the Crown in his district, and died in 1210. His eldest son, Ferquhard, appeared in an agreement between the Chapter of Moray and Alexander de Stryveline in 1234 as "Seneschalle de Badenach." His nephew and successor, Shaw, acquired the lands of Meikle Geddes and the lands and castle of Rait on the Nairn. He also obtained from the Bishop of Moray a lease of the lands of Rothiemurcus, which was afterwards converted



MAC INTOSH





into a feu in 1464. He married the daughter of the Thane of Cawdor, and while he lived at Rothiemurcus is said to have led the people of Badenoch in Alexander III.'s expedition against the Norwegians. There is a tradition that, having slain a man, he fled to the court of Angus Og of Islay, and as the result of a love affair with Mora, daughter of that chief, had to flee to Ireland. Subsequently, however, he returned, married Mora, and was reconciled to his father-in-law. In his time a certain Gillebride took service under Ferquhard. From him are descended the MacGillivrays of later days, who have always been strenuous supporters of the Mackintosh honour and power. In keeping with his stormy life, shortly after his marriage, Ferquhard was slain in an island brawl, and his two children, Angus and a daughter, were brought up by their uncle Alexander, their mother's eldest brother.

During the minority of Angus the family fortunes suffered from the aggressions of the Comyns. In 1230 Walter Comyn, son of the Justiciar of Scotland, had obtained the Lordship of Badenoch, and he and his descendants seem to have thought the presence of the Mackintoshes in the district a menace to their interests. During the boyhood of Angus they seized his lands of Rait and Meikle Geddes, as well as the castle of Inverness, all of which possessions remained alienated from Clan Mackintosh for something like a hundred years.

Angus took for his wife in 1291 Eva, only daughter of the chief of Clan Chattan, a race regarding whose origin there has been much discussion. According to tradition he received along with her the lands of Glenlui and Locharkaig in Lochaber, as well as the chiefship of Clan Chattan. According to another tradition, however, Eva had a cousin once removed, Kenneth, descended, like her, from Muireach, parson of Kingussie, from whom he and his descendants took the name of Macpherson or "Son of the Parson." It is through this Kenneth as heir-male that the Macpherson chiefs have claimed to be the chiefs of Clan Chattan.

Angus, sixth chief of the Mackintoshes, was a supporter of King Robert the Bruce. He is said to have been one of the chief leaders under Randolph, Earl of Moray, at the battle of Bannockburn, and as a reward to have received the lands of Benchar in Badenoch. Also, as a consequence of the fall of the Comyns, he is understood to have come again into possession of the lands of

Rait and Meikle Geddes, as well as the keepership of the Castle of Inverness. From younger sons of Angus were descended the Mackintoshes or Shaws of Rothiemurcus, the Mackintoshes of Dalmunzie, and the Mackintoshes in Mar. He himself died in 1345.

His son William, the seventh chief, seems to have been almost immediately embroiled in a great feud with the Camerons, who were in actual occupation of the lands of Locharkaig. Mackintosh endeavoured to secure his possession of these old Clan Chattan lands by obtaining a charter from his relative John of Isla, afterwards Lord of the Isles, who had been made Lord of Lochaber by Edward Baliol in 1335, and afterwards by a charter from David II. in 1359; but the Camerons continued to hold the lands, and all that Mackintosh ever really possessed of them was the grave in which he was buried in 1368, on the top of the island of Torchionan in Locharkaig, where it is said he had wistfully spent Christmas for several years. From a natural son of this chief were descended the Mackintoshes or MacCombies of Glenshee and Glenisla.

Lachlan, William's son by his first wife, Florence, daughter of the Thane of Cawdor, was the chief at the time of the clan's most strenuous conflicts with the Camerons. In 1370 or 1386, four hundred of the Camerons raided Badenoch. As they returned with their booty they were overtaken at Invernahaven by a superior body under the Mackintosh chief. A dispute, however, arose in the ranks of Clan Chattan, the Macphersons claiming the post of honour on the right wing, as representatives of the old Clan Chattan chiefs, while Davidson of Invernahaven claimed it as the oldest Cadet. Mackintosh decided in favour of Davidson; the Macphersons in consequence withdrew from the field, and as a result the Mackintoshes and Davidsons were all but annihilated. Tradition runs that in these straits Mackintosh sent a minstrel to the Macpherson camp, who in a song taunted the Macphersons with cowardice. At this, Macpherson called his men to arms, and, attacking the Camerons, defeated and put them to flight.

Closely connected with this event appears to have been the famous clan battle before King Robert III. on the North Inch at Perth in 1396. According to some authorities this battle was between Clan Davidson and Clan Macpherson, to settle the brawls brought about by their rival claims to precedency. The weight of evidence, however, appears to favour the belief that the battle was



between Clan Chattan and Clan Cameron. The incident is well known, and is recorded in most of the Scottish histories of the following and later centuries. It has also been made famous as an outstanding episode in Sir Walter Scott's romance *The Fair Maid of Perth*. On a Monday morning near the end of September, thirty champions from each clan faced each other within barriers on the North Inch. Robert III. was there with his queen and court, while round the barriers thronged a vast crowd of the common people from near and far. Before the battle began it was discovered that Clan Chattan was one man short, and it seemed as if the fight could not take place; but on the chief calling for a substitute, and offering a reward, there sprang into the lists a certain Gow Chrom, or bandy-legged smith of Perth, known as Hal o' the Wynd. The battle then began, and was fought with terrific fury till on one side only one man survived, who, seeing the day was lost, sprang into the Tay and escaped. On the victorious side there were eleven survivors, among whom Hal o' the Wynd was the only unwounded man. It is said he accompanied Clan Chattan back to the Highlands, and that his race is represented by the Gows or Smiths, who have been ranked as a sept of Clan Chattan in more recent times.

For a generation after this combat the feud between the Mackintoshes and the Camerons seems to have remained in abeyance. In 1430, however, it broke out again, and raged intermittently till well on in the seventeenth century.

Lachlan, the eighth chief, died in 1407. His wife was Agnes, daughter of Hugh Fraser of Lovat, and their son Ferquhard held the chiefship for only two years. He appears to have been slothful and unwarlike, and was induced to resign his birthright to his uncle Malcolm, reserving to himself only Kyllachy and Corrivory in Strathdearn, where his descendants remained for a couple of centuries.

Malcolm, the uncle who in this way succeeded as tenth chief, was a son of the seventh chief, William, by his second wife, daughter of Macleod of the Lewis. He was a short, thickset man, and from these characteristics was known as Malcolm Beg. Two years after his succession, Donald of the Isles, in prosecution of his claim to the Earldom of Ross, invaded the north of Scotland. Of the mainland chiefs who joined his army Mackintosh and Maclean were the most important, and at the great battle of Harlaw, north of Aberdeen, where the Highland army

was met and defeated by the Earl of Mar and the chivalry of Angus and Mearns, both of these chiefs greatly distinguished themselves. Maclean fell in the battle, as also did many of the Mackintoshes, including James, laird of Rothiemurcus, son of Shaw, who was leader of Clan Chattan in the lists at Perth; but the Mackintosh chief himself appears to have escaped, and there is a tradition that at a later day he conducted James I. over the field of battle. There is also a tradition that, for yielding the honour of the right wing to the Maclean chief in the attack, Mackintosh was granted by Donald of the Isles certain rights in the lands of Glengarry.

It was in the time of this chief that the Mackintoshes finished their feud with the Comyns. During the lawless times under Murdoch, Duke of Albany, Alexander Comyn is said to have seized and hanged certain young men of the Mackintoshes on a hillock near the castle of Rait. Mackintosh replied by surprising and slaying a number of the Comyns in the castle of Nairn. Next the Comyns invaded the Mackintosh country, besieged the chief and his followers in their castle in Loch Moy, and proceeded to raise the waters of the loch by means of a dam, in order to drown out the garrison. One of the latter, however, in the night-time managed to break the dam, when the waters rushed out, and swept away a large part of Comyn's besieging force encamped in the hollow below. Thus foiled, the Comyns planned a more crafty revenge. Pretending a desire for peace, they invited the chief men of the Mackintoshes to a feast at Rait Castle. The tradition is that the Comyn chief made each of his followers swear secrecy as to his design. It happened, however, that his own daughter had a Mackintosh lover, and she took the opportunity to tell the plot to a certain grey stone, when she knew her lover was waiting for her on the other side of it. As a result the Mackintoshes came to the feast, where each one found himself seated with a Comyn on his right hand. All went well till the moment for the murderous attack by the Comyns was all but reached, when Mackintosh suddenly took the initiative, and gave his own signal, whereupon each Mackintosh at the board drew his dirk and stabbed the Comyn next him to the heart. The Comyn chief, it is said, escaped from the table, and, guessing that the secret had been revealed by his daughter, rushed, weapon in hand, to her apartment. The girl sought escape by the window, but, as she hung from the sill, her father appeared above, and with a sweep of his sword severed her hands, whereupon she fell into the



arms of her Mackintosh lover below. Whatever were the details of the final overthrow of the Comyns, the Mackintosh chief in 1442 established his right to the lands of which his family had so long been deprived, and secured a charter of them from Alexander de Seton, Lord of Gordon. The Mackintosh chief was also, as already mentioned, restored to his position as constable of the castle of Inverness by James I. in 1428. He defended the castle in the following year against Alexander, Lord of the Isles, when the latter burned Inverness, and, when the king pursued and defeated the Island Lord in consequence in Lochaber, the issue is said to have been largely brought about by the Mackintoshes and Camerons taking part on the side of the king against their former ally.

In 1431 the tables were turned. The royal army under the Earls of Mar and Caithness was defeated at Inverlochy by Donald Balloch, a cousin of Alexander of the Isles, who forthwith proceeded to devastate the lands of Clan Chattan and Clan Cameron for their desertion of him. For his loyalty Mackintosh obtained from the king certain lands in Glen Roy and Glen Spean.

Though the Mackintoshes and the Camerons fought on the same side in this battle they were not really friends. There is a tradition that in the following year the Camerons made a raid upon Strathdearn, and that the Mackintoshes fought and all but exterminated a sept of them in a church on Palm Sunday.

Afterwards, when the Lord of the Isles was made Justiciar of the North of Scotland, he set the Mackintoshes against the Camerons, and though the latter were victorious in a conflict at Craigcailleach in 1441, when one of Mackintosh's sons was slain, in the end Donald Dhu, the Cameron chief, was forced to flee to Ireland, and his lands were forfeited for a time.

Malcolm Beg lived to an extreme old age. In his time a number of septs came into the clan, including the MacQueens, Clan Andrish, and Clan Chlearich, while his second son Alan was the progenitor of the Kyllachy branch of the clan. One of the last events of his life was a brush with the Munroes. On returning from a raid in Perthshire, the latter were driving their booty through the Mackintosh country, when they were stopped by the demand of Malcolm, a grandson of the chief, that they should deliver up not only the usual share in name of toll, but the whole of their booty. Munro thereupon refused to pay anything, but at Clachnaharry, beyond the River Ness, he was overtaken, and a bloody battle took place in

which young Mackintosh was slain, and Munro, tutor of Fowlis, was left for dead on the field.

Malcolm Beg's eldest son Duncan, the eleventh chief, who succeeded in 1464, was in favour with King James IV., and devoted himself largely to securing his family possessions by means of charters from the Crown and other superiors. But though Duncan, the chief, was a peace-lover, his son Ferquhard was not. He joined Alexander of Lochalsh, nephew of John of the Isles, in his attempt to regain the earldom of Ross, and in the course of the attempt stormed the castle of Inverness, obtaining possession by means of a "sow" and by sapping. After ravaging the Black Isle, they proceeded to the Mac-Kenzies' country, where they were surprised by the chief, and utterly routed at the battle of Blair-na-Park, with the result that the Lord of the Isles was finally forfeited and Ferquhard Mackintosh imprisoned in Edinburgh Castle and in the castle of Dunbar till after the battle of Flodden.

After his father's death in 1496, Ferquhard in prison had his affairs managed by his cousin William, who ably defended the Mackintosh lands against raids of the Camerons, Macgregors, and Macdonalds of Glencoe, and who was finally infested in the Mackintosh lands and chiefship, and succeeded to them on the death of Ferquhard without male issue. Meanwhile, during his long imprisonment, Ferquhard proved his ability in another way by compiling a history of his clan. When he was set free after Flodden, in 1513, he was received on the haugh at Inverness by eighteen hundred of his clansmen, but he died in the following year.

The marriage of William, who succeeded as thirteenth chief in 1514, was characteristic of the time. In 1475 the Earl of Huntly had granted his father the marriage of the sisters MacNaughton or MacNiven, co-heiresses of Dunachton, on condition of receiving a bond of manrent. Lachlan's son William was accordingly married to the elder heiress, with the result that for the next hundred years the Mackintosh chiefs were styled "of Dunachton."

William, however, had no children, and his brother Lachlan was unmarried. Accordingly, his cousin, John Ruaidh, who was next heir, proceeded to hasten his fortune. Learning that the chief lay sick at Inverness, he entered the house and murdered him in May, 1515. The assassins, however, were pursued through the north by another cousin, Dougal Mhor, and his son Ferquhard, and finally overtaken and executed in Glenness.

William's brother, Lachlan, who succeeded as four-



### INVERLOCHY CASTLE

WHERE DONALD BALLOCH DEFEATED THE EARLS OF MAR AND CAITHNESS  
AND MONTROSE ROUTED ARGYLL

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teenth chief, had a similar fate. First Dougal Mhor set up a claim to the chiefship, having seized the castle of Inverness, but he was slain with his two sons when the castle was recaptured for the king. Next a natural son of the chief's elder half-brother took to evil courses, and murdered the chief while hunting on the Findhorn.

Lachlan Mackintosh had been married to the daughter of Sir Alexander Gordon of Lochinvar and Jean, sister of the first Earl of Cassillis, who was mother also of James IV.'s natural son, the Earl of Moray; and on the death of Lochinvar at Flodden, the son of Mackintosh quartered the Lochinvar arms with his own. This son, William, was an infant when he succeeded to the chiefship, and during his minority Hector, a natural son of Ferquhard, twelfth chief, by a Dunbar lady, was chosen as captain by the clan. Fearful for the safety of the infant chief, his next-of-kin, the Earl of Moray removed him with his mother to his own house, where he caused the latter to marry Ogilvie of Cardell. In reply, Hector Mackintosh raided the lands belonging to Moray and the Ogilvies, and slew twenty-four of the latter, as a result of which his brother William and others were hanged by Moray at Forres, and he himself, having fled to the south, was assassinated by a monk of St. Andrews.

It was now Queen Mary's time, and in the person of William, the young fifteenth chief, the most famous tragedy in the history of the Mackintosh family was to take place. The young chief appears to have been well educated, and distinguished by his spirit and enlightenment. On the death of his early friend the Earl of Moray, his most powerful neighbour became George, fourth Earl of Huntly. This nobleman at first acted as his very good friend, and on the other hand was supported by Mackintosh in some of his chief undertakings, notably the expedition to replace Ranald Gallda in possession of his father's chiefship in Moidart, which had been seized by the notorious John Muidertach—the expedition which led to the battle of Kinlochlochie, in which the Macdonalds and the Frasers all but exterminated each other. But on Huntly becoming feudal superior of most of the Clan Chattan lands, trouble appears to have sprung up between him and his vassal. First, the earl deprived Mackintosh of his office of Deputy Lieutenant, as a consequence of the latter's refusal to sign a bond of manrent. Then Lachlan Mackintosh, son of the murderer of the chief's father, though the chief had bestowed many favours upon him, brought an accusation against his chief of conspiring to

take Huntly's life. Upon this excuse the earl seized Mackintosh, carried him to Aberdeen, and in a court packed with his own supporters, had him condemned to death. The sentence would have been carried out on the spot had not Thomas Menzies, the Provost, called out his burghers to prevent the deed. Huntly, however, carried his prisoner to his stronghold of Strathbogie, where he left him to his lady to deal with, while he himself proceeded to France with the Queen Dowager, Mary of Guise. Mackintosh was accordingly beheaded on 23rd August, 1550.

Sir Walter Scott, following tradition, invests the incident with his usual romance. Mackintosh, he says, had excited the Earl's wrath by burning his castle of Auchendoun, and afterwards, finding his clan in danger of extermination through the Earl's resentment, devised a plan of obtaining forgiveness. Choosing a time when the Earl was absent, he betook himself to the Castle of Strathbogie, and, asking for Lady Huntly, begged her to procure him forgiveness. The lady, Scott proceeds, declared that Mackintosh had offended Huntly so deeply that the latter had sworn to make no pause till he had brought the chief's head to the block. Mackintosh replied that he would stoop even to this to save his father's house, and, as the interview took place in the kitchen of the castle, he knelt down before the block on which the animals for the use of the garrison were broken up, and laid his neck upon it. He no doubt thought to move the lady's pity by this show of submission, but instead she made a sign to the cook, who stepped forward with his cleaver, and at one stroke severed Mackintosh's head from his body.

The historian of Clan Mackintosh points out the flaw in this story, the burning of Auchendoun not having taken place till forty-three years later, at the hands of William, a grandson of the same name.

It is interesting to note how Mackintosh was indirectly avenged. Four years later Huntly was sent by the Queen Regent to repress John Muidertach and Clan Ranald. Chief among the Highland vassals upon whom he must rely were Clan Chattan; but, knowing the feelings cherished by the clansmen against himself, he thought better of the enterprise and abandoned it; upon which the Queen, greatly displeased, deprived him of the Earldom of Moray and Lordship of Abernethy, and condemned him to five years' banishment, which was ultimately commuted to a fine of £5,000.

But Huntly was to be still further punished for his



deed. Lachlan Mor, the son of the murdered chief, finished his education in Edinburgh, and was a member of Queen Mary's suite, when in 1562 she proceeded to the north to make her half-brother Earl of Moray. This proceeding was highly resented by Huntly, who regarded the earldom as his own, and who called out his vassals to resist the infestment. When Mary reached Inverness Castle she was refused admittance by Alexander Gordon, who held it for Huntly. At the same time she learned that the Gordons were approaching in force. Here was the opportunity of the young Mackintosh chief. Raising his vassals in the neighbourhood, he undertook the Queen's protection till other forces arrived, when the castle was taken and its captain hanged over the wall. Mackintosh also managed to intercept his clansmen in Badenoch on their way to join the army of Huntly, their feudal superior, and, deprived of their help, the Gordons retired upon Deeside. Here, on 28th October, Huntly was defeated by Mary's forces at the battle of Corrichie, and died of an apoplectic stroke. It is believed that the young chief, Lachlan Mor, afterwards fought on Mary's behalf at Langside.

In the faction troubles of the north in the following years Mackintosh played a conspicuous part, and at the battle of Glenlivet in 1594, commanding, along with Maclean, the Earl of Argyll's right wing, he almost succeeded in cutting off the Earl of Errol and his men.

Lachlan Mor died in 1606. Of his seven sons the eldest, Angus, married Jean, daughter of the fifth Earl of Argyll, and their son, another Lachlan, becoming a gentleman of the bedchamber to the prince, afterwards Charles I., received the honour of knighthood in 1617, and is said to have been promised the earldom of Orkney, but died suddenly in his twenty-ninth year. His second brother, William, was ancestor of the Borlum branch of the clan, and his second son, Lachlan of Kinrara, was writer of the MS. account of the family upon which the earlier part of the modern history of the clan is based.

In the civil wars of Charles I. the Mackintoshes took no part as a clan, on account of the feeble health of William, the eighteenth chief, though large numbers of Mackintoshes, Macphersons, and Farquharsons fought for the king under Huntly and Montrose, while the chief himself was made Lieutenant of Moray and Governor of Inverlochy Castle in the king's interest.

At the same time, the Macphersons, who, through Huntly's influence, had been gradually, during the last

fifty years, separating themselves from the Mackintoshes, first took an independent position in the wars of Montrose under their chief Ewen, then tenant of Cluny, and proceeded to assert themselves as an independent clan. A few years later, in the autumn of 1665, the dispute with the Camerons over the lands of Glenlui and Locharkaig, which had lasted for three hundred and fifty years, was brought to an end by an arrangement in which Lochiel agreed to pay 72,500 merks. Still later, in 1688, the old trouble with the Macdonalds of Keppoch, who had persisted in occupying Mackintosh's lands in Glen Roy and Glen Spean without paying rent, was brought to a head in the last clan battle fought in Scotland. This was the encounter at Mulroy, in which the Mackintoshes were defeated, and the chief himself taken prisoner.

Lachlan Mackintosh, the twentieth chief, was head of the clan at the time of the Earl of Mar's rising in 1715, and with his clan was among the first to take arms for the Jacobite cause. With his kinsman of Borlum he marched into Inverness, proclaimed King James VIII., and seized the public money and arms, and he afterwards joined Mar at Perth with seven hundred of his clan. The most effective part of the campaign was that carried out by six regiments which crossed the Forth and made their way into England under Mackintosh of Borlum as Brigadier. And when the end came at Preston, on the same day as the defeat at Sheriffmuir, the Mackintosh chief was among those forced to surrender. He gave up his sword, it is said, to an officer named Graham, with the stipulation that if he escaped with his life it should be returned to him. In the upshot he was pardoned, but the holder of the sword forgot to give it back. A number of years later the officer was appointed to a command at Fort Augustus, when the sword was demanded by the successor of its previous owner, who declared that if it were not given up he would fight for it. The weapon, however, was then handed back without demur. This sword is a beautiful piece with a silver hilt, which was originally given to the Mackintosh chief by Viscount Dundee. It is still preserved at Moy Hall, and is laid on the coffin of the chief when he goes to his burial. For his part in Mar's rising Lachlan Mackintosh received a patent of nobility from the court at St. Germain's.

Angus, the twenty-second chief, was head of the clan when Prince Charles Edward raised his standard in 1745. In the previous year he had been appointed to command a company of the newly-raised Black Watch, and his



wife, the energetic Anne, traversing the country, it is said, in male attire, had by her sole exertions in a very short time raised the necessary hundred men, all but three. She was a daughter of Farquharson of Invercauld and was only twenty years of age. Though hard pressed, Mackintosh kept his military oath. Lady Mackintosh, however, raised two battalions of the clan, and it was these battalions, led by young MacGillivray of Dunmagglass, who covered themselves with glory in the final battle at Culloden. There, charging with sword and target, they cut to pieces two companies of Burrel's regiment and lost their gallant leader, with several other officers and a great number of men.

A few weeks before the battle the Prince was sleeping at Moy Hall, when word was brought that Lord Loudoun was bringing a force from Inverness to secure him. Like an able general, Lady Mackintosh sent out the smith of Moy, with four other men, to watch the road from Inverness. When Lord Loudoun's force appeared, these men began firing their muskets, rushing about, and shouting orders to imaginary Macdonalds and Camerons, with the result that the attacking force thought it had fallen into an ambush, and, turning about, made at express speed for Inverness. The incident was remembered as the Rout of Moy. A few days afterwards Charles himself entered Inverness, where, till Culloden was fought, he stayed in the house of the Dowager Lady Mackintosh.

The battle of Culloden may be said to have ended the old clan system in Scotland. The line of the Mackintosh chiefs, however, has come down to the present day. Æneas, the twenty-third, was made a baronet by King George III. Before his death in 1820 he built the chief's modern seat of Moy Hall, entailed the family estates on the heir-male of the house, and wrote an account of the history of the clan.

The tradition known as the Curse of Moy, which was made the subject of a poem by Mr. Morrit of Rokeby, included in Scott's *Minstrelsy of the Scottish Border*, refers particularly to this period, when from 1731 till 1833 no chief of Mackintosh was succeeded by a son. The story is of a maiden, daughter of a Grant of Urquhart, who rejected the suit of a Mackintosh chief. The latter seized her, her father, and her lover, Grant of Alva, and imprisoned them in the castle in Loch Moy. By her tears she prevailed upon Mackintosh to allow one of his prisoners to escape, but when, at her father's entreaty, she



named her lover, Mackintosh, enraged, had them both slain and placed before her. In consequence she became mad, wandered for years through Badenoch, and left a curse of childlessness upon the Mackintosh chiefs. The drawbacks to the story are that Moy was not the seat of the Mackintosh chiefs in early times, and that there were no Grants of Urquhart.

Alfred Donald, the twenty-eighth and present chief, is one of the best known and best liked heads of the Highland clans, one of the best of Highland landlords, and one of the most public-spirited men in the country. At his beautiful seat of Moy Hall he frequently entertained the late King Edward, and his grouse moors are the best-managed and most famous in Scotland. His only son, Angus Alexander, was among the first to go to the Front in the great war of 1914, where he was severely wounded in one of the earlier engagements. He was afterwards secretary to the Duke of Devonshire when Governor-General of Canada, and married one of the Duke's daughters, but died in the following year. The Mackintosh is one of the most enthusiastic upholders of Highland traditions, and, in view of his own family's most romantic story, it will be admitted that he has the best of all reasons for his enthusiasm.

## SEPTS OF CLAN MACKINTOSH

Adamson	Ayson
Clark	Clerk
Clarkson	Crerar
Combie	Doles
Dallas	Esson
Elder	Glennie
Glen	Hardy
MacAndrew	MacAy
MacCardney	MacChlerich
MacChlery	MacCombe
MacCombie	MacComie
M'Conchy	MacFall
Macglashan	MacHay
Machardy	M'Killican
Mackeggie	MacNiven
MacOmie	MacPhail
Macritchie	MacThomas
Macvail	Niven
Noble	Paul
Ritchie	Shaw
Tarrill	Tosh
Toshach	

## CLAN MACLACHLAN

BADGE: Faochag, no Gillefuinhrinn (Pervinca minor) lesser periwinkle.

PIBROCH: Moladh Mhairi.

FROM its location on the western coast of Scotland, Clan Lachlan might straightway be assumed to be either of early Scottish or of Norse origin. Its name might point to the latter source. Lochlin or Lochlan was the name under which the Norwegian invaders of the early centuries were known to the people of western Scotland. They appear constantly under this name in the poems of Ossian. Further, in the traditions of the clan, and in a manuscript of 1450, published by the Iona Club, the MacLachlans are closely associated with the Lords of the Isles. The usual traditional account of the origin of the Clan, however, is that they are descended from the early Scottish race in the north-east of Ireland. There are many references to them in the *Annals of the Four Masters*, and from this it is believed they were the elder branch of the Irish Hy Niall, who were kings in Ireland for a thousand years. The Iona Club manuscript already referred to, which was preserved in the family of the MacLachlans of Kilbride, gives the early genealogy of the race as follows: "Kenneth, son of John, son of Lachlan, son of Gille Patrick, son of Lachlan Mor, son of Patrick, son of Gille Christ, son of Dedalan, son of Andadan, from whom are descended also the children of Niall." The probability is that they were among the early Scottish settlers who came over from Ireland with the renowned Fergus and his two brothers, in the early years of the sixth century, to make the first beginnings of the little Scottish kingdom of Dalriada, and give the part of the country in which they settled its new name of Earrha Gael, Argyll, the Land of the Gael. According to one tradition, dealt with at length by Buchanan of Auchmar in his famous work, the earliest settlement of the MacLachlans was in Lochaber, where for several centuries the senior cadets of the clan, the MacLachlans of Coire-Uanan, held the hereditary office of standard-bearers to the Lairds of Locheil. A

tradition of the MacLachlans of this region is recounted in MacIan's *Clans of the Scottish Highlands* as follows :

" A story is told of one of this branch which we do not recollect having met with in any publication. A quarrel having arisen between a young man and one of the Camerons of Glen Nevis, he took his revenge by the slaughter of his enemy, which was accomplished in a somewhat singular manner. Glen Nevis passing the fold where the young women were milking the cattle, he was presented, according to custom, with a draught. MacLachlan, who had been lying in wait for him, and was celebrated for his skilful archery, let fly an arrow which simultaneously split Cameron's head and the vessel which contained the milk. MacLachlan instantly fled, and was obliged to wander through the Highlands and isles for many years, in constant dread of being captured or slain by his enemies. During this time it was his practice to sleep in caves, or the least accessible mountains, and even when in the shelter of a house, he always rested his head on his naked dirk, a weapon peculiarly convenient in case of sudden or close attack. He is represented as having been the last of his family, and perhaps was therefore more reckless of his life ; however, in process of time, he ventured to revisit his native hills, and as he passed by the house of Glen Nevis, he observed by looking through an open window, a very fine gun, which he resolved to appropriate to himself. A broad ditch intervened between him and the building, but, being remarkably athletic, he cleared it at a bound, and silently entering, seized the gun. At the moment when he was retreating by the window, Glen Nevis entered the room, and, pouncing on the depredator, seized him by the arm with an iron grasp, exclaiming, ' You are now in the talons of the mountain eagle, and a death struggle alone shall disengage them ! ' A minute's portentous pause ensued, when MacLachlan, with unsuspected dexterity, stabbed Cameron with his dirk, and then, relieved from his hold, leaped across the ditch and escaped ! The gun, a very curious piece, is still preserved by Glen Nevis."

There is a tradition that when King Alexander II., in the thirteenth century, was making his way into the West Highlands in prosecution of his campaign against the Norsemen, in which he declared his intention to plant his standard on the walls of Thurso, he ordered the MacLachlan chief to send him his tribute by the swiftest messenger. MacLachlan, it is said, complied by tying the bags of tribute to a roebuck, which he despatched by





CASTLE LACHLAN



a trusty and swift-footed messenger to the king, at which Alexander was so impressed that he conferred upon the chief a pair of roebucks as supporters to his coat of arms.

There was long treasured in the family of the MacLachlan chiefs a custom which was said to have taken its origin during one of the crusades. Upon that crusade, it is said, the chiefs of Strath Lachlan and of Strachur, who were close friends as well as neighbours, made a promise to each other that, if one of them were slain in battle, the other would see to it that his body was carried home and duly laid in the family burying-place. For centuries afterwards the custom remained that when a Laird of Strath Lachlan or a Laird of Strachur died his neighbour laid his head in the grave.

According to tradition the chiefs of Clan Lachlan at one time owned very extensive lands in Argyllshire, and even yet their possessions run eleven miles along the shore of one of the most beautiful parts of Loch Fyne. Their present estate is said to have been acquired by marriage with the daughter and heiress of one of the chiefs of Clan Lamont. The manuscript above mentioned puts it that "Caitrina, the daughter of Duncan Mac Lamain, was the mother of Kenneth, Patrick, and Gille Easpuig, and Agais, daughter of MacDonald, was mother of John, and Culusaid, daughter of the Maormar of Cowal, was the mother of Lachlan Oig." In whatever way their present possessions on the western coast of Cowal were acquired, the MacLachlan chiefs are believed to have possessed Strathlachlan since the eleventh century. The first documentary evidence of their ownership appears in 1292, when the lands belonging to Gilleskel MacLachlan were recorded as included in the Sherifffdom of Argyll or Lorne, and King John Baliol granted Gilleskel a charter of them. The same chief also received a charter later from King Robert the Bruce, and appears on the roll of the Scottish magnates who sat in the first Parliament of Bruce at St. Andrews. The chief's name also appears on one of the seal tags of the letter sent by the Scottish barons to King Philip of France. From Gilleskel the direct line of the chiefs is declared to be clearly traced to the present day, and, though they never played a leading part in the great affairs of the realm, their history has not been without its tincturing of adventure, heroism, and romance.

During the disorders of the Douglas Wars in the reign of James II., when Lauder, the Fifeshire Bishop of Lismore, was endeavouring to dominate the clansmen with the law of the Church, Sir Gilbert MacLachlan and Sir



Morier MacFadyan, respectively chancellor and treasurer of the diocese, raised the whole strength of Clan Lachlan, attacked the bishop and his train on the way to his cathedral, stripped them of their robes, plundered the church of its treasures and charters, and forced the bishop himself to promise to make no reprisals.

Archibald MacLachlan of Strath Lachlan appears in the Rolls of 1587 and 1594. The chiefs were Jacobites, and as their possessions were situated in the midst of the territory of the powerful Campbell race, who were upon the other side, their position must at all times have been precarious, and their opinion must have required more than the usual courage and loyalty to express.

During the civil wars, when the Marquess of Montrose raised an army for King Charles I. in the Highlands, Colonel MacLachlan was one of his most active officers. At the battle of Alford he led a regiment of foot, and routed the enemy's cavalry. His fate was as grievous as it was undeserved. After the surprise and defeat of Montrose's little royalist army at Philliphaugh, he was taken prisoner, carried to Edinburgh, and executed by the Covenanters.

After the Revolution in 1689 the Chief of MacLachlan took the field with King James's general, Viscount Dundee, and as a result he figures in the curious Latin poem of the time, "The Grameid." Fifty-six years later, when Bonnie Prince Charlie raised the Stewart standard in the Highlands for the last time, Lauchlan MacLachlan, the fifteenth chief, raised his clan and marched to join him. This chief had evidently all the courage of his convictions, for, notwithstanding the danger of the proceeding, with the Campbells at his door, he is said to have proclaimed his intentions at Kilmichael market, where he openly summoned his clan; and it says much for his leadership that he made his way successfully through the heart of the Argyll country, to join the Prince in the north. The military and other esteem in which he was held may be gathered from the fact that he acted as aide-de-camp to Prince Charles; and his career ended in the gallant fashion such a brave man might desire, for he was killed at Culloden.

A pretty story is told in connection with this event. The chief, it is said, owned a favourite dun horse. When he was slain at Culloden this dun horse escaped, and made its way home to Strath Lachlan, where it was the first to bring the terrible news. A few months later the castle was bombarded and destroyed by a Government

frigate, but the horse took up its quarters in one of the ruined apartments, which, from that fact, is still known as The Dun Horse's Stable.

As a result of the part taken in the Rebellion by the chief, the lands of Strath Lachlan were forfeited, but the next heir succeeded in recovering them in 1749.

It says much for the finer spirit of the clan in a rude and warlike time that they were among the few who cherished the literary memorials of their race's past. When James Macpherson produced his translation of Ossian in the sixties of the eighteenth century, the erudite and unbelieving Dr. Samuel Johnson declared in scorn that there was not in the Highlands a Gaelic manuscript more than a hundred years old. Among the evidences which were forthcoming to refute this statement was a wonderful collection of ancient manuscripts which had been preserved by the MacLachlans of Kilbride. Besides the manuscript of 1450 above quoted, this collection included many details throwing light upon Highland history and the authenticity of the Ossianic poems. It attracted much attention at the time, and was eventually purchased by the Highland Society and deposited in the Advocates' Library.

A few years later Clan MacLachlan itself produced a Gaelic poet and scholar of considerable repute. Ewen MacLachlan, headmaster of Aberdeen Grammar School, was the author of at least two volumes of poetry, published in 1807 and 1816. And in more recent days Thomas Hope MacLachlan, barrister of Lincoln's Inn, abandoned law for the painter's art, in which he attained considerable reputation. His picture, "Ships that pass in the night," has a place in the National Gallery.

In recent times the MacLachlans have also won distinction in other ways. In 1810 Captain MacLachlan of the Royal Marines distinguished himself in the Basque Roads at the storming of the battery on the Point du Chée, where with conspicuous bravery he spiked the guns.

The present head of the Clan is one of the most popular of the Highland chiefs, an enthusiast for all things pertaining to the traditions and welfare of the Gaelic race, and possessor of perhaps the most characteristic designation and address of any landowner in the Highlands—MacLachlan of MacLachlan, Castle Lachlan, Strath Lachlan, Argyllshire.

## SEPTS OF CLAN MACLACHLAN

Ewing  
Lachlan  
MacEwan  
MacGilchrist

Ewen  
Gilchrist  
Lauchlan  
MacEwen



## CLAN MACLAURIN

BADGE : Labhrail, or Buaidh craobh (laureola) laurel.

SLOGAN : Craig Tuirc !

It is a melancholy fact that many of the clans of the Scottish Highlands are at the present day without a chief. Considering that the feudal system was substituted for the patriarchal so many centuries ago, it is perhaps a marvel, on the other hand, that so many clans have retained a record of the descent of their patriarchal heads to the present day; but undoubtedly interest is added to the story of a tribe when that story can be traced through a succession of leaders who have been the recognised main stem of their race from an early century.

Of recognised chiefs of the clan MacLaurin there have been no more than faint traces within modern times, and the attempt of the Scottish judge, John MacLaurin, Lord Dreghorn, in 1781, to establish his claim to the chiefship, can be regarded as little more than a verification of the mystery surrounding the disappearance of the chiefship a couple of hundred years before. The last record of the existence of these chiefs appears to be in the rolls of the clans drawn up in 1587 and 1594 for James VI., when that monarch hit upon the excellent plan of making the Highland chiefs responsible for the good behaviour of the members of their tribes. But the clan MacLaurin, nevertheless, claimed a highly interesting origin, and achieved a record of doughty deeds in its time, which was strenuous and heroic enough.

Romantic legend has associated the origin of the clan with the romance of a mermaid who appears in the armorial bearings assigned by the Lion Court to Lord Dreghorn when he claimed the Chiefship. Another more plausible derivation is that from Loarn, one of the three sons of Erc, who crossed from Ireland in 503, and founded the infant Kingdom of the Scots. From these settlers the district about Loch Awe got its name of Earrha Gaidheal, or Argyll, the "Land of the Gael," and from Loarn or Lorn, the youngest of the three brothers, the district of Lorne immediately to the westward is said to have

taken its name. The name Loarn or Laurin, in the first instance, is understood to represent Laurence, the Christian martyr who is believed to have suffered under the Emperor Valerian in 261 A.D. Whether or not the chiefs MacLaurin were actually descended from the early son of Erc, families of the name appear to have been settled at an early date in the island of Tiree and in the upper fastnesses of western Perthshire, about the Braes of Balquhiddel and the foot of Loch Voil. Tradition declares that three brothers from Argyllshire came eastward and settled in these lands in Balquhiddel, named respectively, from west to east, the Bruach, Auchleskine, and the Stank. The descendants of these three brothers had their burial-places divided off in the little kirkyard of Balquhiddel, in agreement with this tradition. While the chiefs of the clan appear to have had their seat in Tiree, and it was to them that Lord Dreghorn made his claim of descent, the history of the race appears mostly to have been made by the families of the name settled in Balquhiddel. In keeping with this fact Tiree long ago passed into possession of the great house of Argyll, though down to a comparatively recent date there were landowners of the name of MacLaurin at Craiguie and Invernentie on the shores of Loch Voil.

In Balquhiddel the MacLaurins were followers in early times of the great Celtic Earls of Strathearn, and by some authorities they have been taken to be cadets of that ancient house, settled in the district possibly as early as the days of Kenneth MacAlpine. At the great battle of the Standard, fought by David I. in 1138, it is recorded by Lord Hailes in his well-known *Annals* that Malise, Earl of Strathearn, was the leader of the Lavernani. And a century and a half later, in 1296, when the notables of Scotland, in token of submission to Edward I. of England, were compelled to sign the Ragman Roll, three of the signatories, Maurice of Tiree, Conan of Balquhiddel, and Laurin of Ardveche in Strathearn, have been assigned as cadets of the Earl's house.

From an early period the MacLaurins figured in the battles of their country. Whatever were the undertakings extorted by Edward I., it is recorded in a later document that the clan fought by the side of Bruce at Bannockburn. They were also among the followers of the luckless James III., when that monarch fought and fell at Sauchieburn seventy-five years later. Three-quarters of a century later still, through a romantic episode, they became mixed up with one of the great family dramas of the West High-



*Photo. W. Ritchie & Sons, Ltd.*

LOCH VOIL AND THE OLD MACLAURIN COUNTRY

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lands, which, drawing down upon them the animosity of the ambitious house of Argyll, may have done not a little to darken the later fortunes of the clan. About the middle of the fifteenth century, John, third and last of the Stewart Lords of Lorne, as a result of a love affair with a lady of the MacLaurins of Balquhiddy, became father of a natural son, Dugal. He had at the same time two legitimate daughters, the eldest of whom, Isobel, was married to Colin, Lord Campbell, first Earl of Argyll, while the younger became the wife of the Earl's uncle, Campbell of Glenurchy. On the death of his father in 1469, Dugal Stewart claimed the Lordship of Lorne. Against him he had the powerful forces of the Campbells. Nevertheless he gathered his friends, among whom were his mother's relatives, the MacLaurins of Balquhiddy. The two forces met at the foot of Bendoran in Glen Urchy, when a bloody battle ensued. In the end the Stewarts were overcome, and among the dead on their side, it is recorded, were 130 of the MacLaurins. As a result Dugal Stewart had to content himself with only a part of his father's possessions, namely Appin; and he became ancestor of that well-known house, the Stewarts of Appin.

Stewart, however, did not forget the MacLaurins, among whom he had been brought up, and who had served him so well in his great attempt. In 1497 they made a sudden appeal to him for help. According to the custom of the time the MacLaurins had made a foray on the lands of the MacDonalds in Lochaber. On their way home, driving a great spoil of cattle, they were overtaken in Glen Urchy by the wrathful MacDonalds, and the spoil recaptured. Thereupon the MacLaurins appealed to Stewart of Appin, who instantly raised his men and joined them. The united forces came up with the MacDonalds in the Black Mount, near the head of Glencoe, where a fierce struggle at once began. Many were slain on both sides, and the dead included the two chiefs, MacDonald of Keppoch and Stewart of Appin.

The MacLaurins, however, had enemies nearer home—the MacGregors on one side and the Buchanans of Leny on the other. A story well remembered in Balquhiddy, and told with many circumstantial details by the inhabitants of the district at the present day, is that of their great conflict with the Buchanans. Local tradition assigns the incident to the twelfth or thirteenth century, but the Buchanans were not then in strength at Leny, and it seems much more probable that the event occurred sometime in the days of James V. According to tradition

the episode began at a fair at Kilmahog, at the foot of the Pass of Leny. Among those who attended the fair was a certain "natural" or "innocent" who was one of the MacLaurins of Balquhiddy. As this wight strutted along he was met by one of the Buchanans, who, by way of jest, slapped his face with the tail of a salmon he was carrying, and knocked off his bonnet. In the way of a weakling the MacLaurin innocent dared his assailant to do this again at the fair at Balquhiddy. The natural then went home, and promptly forgot all about the incident. On the day of the fair at Balquhiddy, however, when the MacLaurins were busy buying, selling, and enjoying themselves, word was suddenly brought that a considerable body of the Buchanans were marching up through Strathyre, and were already no farther away than the Clachan of Ruskachan. Then the idiot suddenly remembered what had happened to him at Kilmahog, and the challenge he had given. There was no time to lose; but the fiery cross was at once sent round the MacLaurin country, and the clan rushed to arms. The MacLaurins had not all come in by the time the Buchanans arrived on the scene, but those who were present, nothing daunted, began the attack. At first the Buchanans carried everything before them, and drove the MacLaurins for a mile, to the place where the manse now stands. There one of the MacLaurins saw his son cut down, and, being suddenly seized with battle madness, turned, shouted the slogan of the clan, "Craig Tuiric," and, whirling his claymore, rushed furiously at the enemy. The clansmen followed him, and before this new furious attack the Buchanans went down like corn. Only two escaped, by swimming the river Balvaig, but even these were followed, one being cut down at Gartnafuaran and the other at the spot since known from the circumstance as Sron Lainie. The whole episode is typical of the ways of the Highlands at that time.

In their encounter with the MacGregors, their enemies on the other side, the MacLaurins were not so fortunate. It was in 1558 that the event occurred. Mention of it appears in the indictment of the MacGregors for the slaughter of the Colquhouns at Glenfruin in 1602, and an account of it is to be read on a tombstone in Balquhiddy kirkyard at the present day. The MacGregors, it appears, who by this time had become the Ishmaels of the West Highlands, made a sudden and unprovoked descent on Balquhiddy, and murdered and burned no fewer than eighteen householders of the clan MacLaurin.



with their wives and families. The attack seems to have been a disabling one, for the MacGregors remained in possession of the farms of their slaughtered victims, and from that time appear to have been dominant in the district.

It was at any rate in the little kirk of Balquhiddel that, towards the end of the century, the dreadful ceremony took place which has since been known as Clan Alpine's vow. The story of this is told by Sir Walter Scott in the preface to his *Legend of Montrose*, and, as it belongs rather to the story of the MacGregors, than to that of the MacLaurins, it need not be repeated here. It was one of the chief acts, however, which brought Nemesis upon the Clan MacGregor, and in view of the fact it may seem strange to find a MacGregor at all in possession of lands in Balquhiddel at the present day. These lands, however, some of them the possession of the MacLaurins of early times, were purchased by the Chief of the MacGregors from the Commissioners of Forfeited Estates in 1798.

Meantime the MacLaurins had not failed to play a warlike part in the greater struggles of the nation. The clan fought for James the Fourth at Flodden, and for the infant Queen Mary at Pinkie, and when Prince Charles Edward raised his standard at Glenfinnan in the autumn of 1745, considerable numbers of the clan rallied to his cause under the banner of their distant kinsman, Stewart of Appin. Under that banner during the campaign thirteen MacLaurins were killed and fourteen wounded. The story of one of the clan, MacLaurin of Wester Invermentie, who was taken prisoner after Culloden, afforded the subject for the episode of "Pate in Peril" which appears in Sir Walter Scott's novel, *Redgauntlet*. This young man was being marched south, like so many others, to take his trial at Carlisle. As the party made its way through the defiles of the Lowthers above Moffat, the prisoner, who had formerly driven his cattle southward to the English market by the same route, and knew the spot, where the path passed along the edge of the curious hollow now known as the Devil's Beef Tub, asked to be allowed to step aside for a moment, when, seizing the opportunity, he disappeared over the edge of the abyss. Hiding himself up to the neck in a bog, with a turf on his head, he eluded the search of his pursuers till night-fall, then, returning to Balquhiddel, lived disguised as a woman till the Act of Indemnity set him free to show himself again.

Among the most famous personages of the name have been two sons of an Argyllshire minister, John and Colin MacLaurin. The former, born in 1693, was a famous preacher and controversialist, a leader of the Intrusionists in the Church of Scotland, and author of *Sermons and Essays*, published in 1755. His brother Colin, five years younger, is regarded as "the one mathematician of first rank trained in Great Britain in the eighteenth century." He was Professor of Mathematics successively at Aberdeen and Edinburgh. In 1745, when Prince Charles Edward was marching on the Scottish Capital, he organised the defence of the city, and in consequence, being forced presently to flee, he endured such hardship that he died in the following June. It was his son John, an advocate and senator of the College of Justice, with the title of Lord Dreghorn, who made a claim to the Chieftship of the clan in 1781. Another of the name, though spelling it differently, was Archibald MacLaren, soldier and dramatist. Entering the army in 1755, he served in the American war. On his return to Scotland he joined a troupe of strolling players, and was author of a number of dramatic pieces and an account of the Irish Rebellion. Ewen MacLaurin, again, a native of Argyll, on the outbreak of the first American war, raised at his own expense the force known as the South Carolina Loyalists. There was also Colonel James MacLaren, C.B., son of the "Baron MacLaurin," and a distinguished Indian soldier, who played a distinguished part at the head of the 16th Bengal Infantry at the battle of Sobraon. And it was Charles MacLaren who established the *Scotsman* newspaper in 1817, edited it from 1820 till 1845, and, besides editing the 6th edition of the *Encyclopædia Britannica* in 1823, published several geological works.

From first to last it is a sufficiently varied record, this of the clan MacLaurin, from the days of Loarn son of Erc to the present hour, and it was one of the regrets of those interested in "old unhappy far-off things" when, a few years ago, the Corporation of Glasgow proposed to annex Loch Voil as a reservoir, that the undertaking would entail the disappearance of many spots associated with the tragic and romantic memories of the clan.

#### SEPTS OF CLAN MACLAURIN

MacFater  
MacPatrick  
Paterson  
MacRory

MacFeat  
MacPhater  
MacGrory



MAC LEAN





## CLAN MACLEAN

**BADGE :** Cuilfhionn (ilex aquifolium) Holly.

**SLOGAN :** Bas no Beatha, and Fear eil' air son Eachainn Ruaidh.

**PIBROCH :** Caisimeachd Eachuin mhic Aluin an sop.

**THERE** are various legends of the origin of the Clan Maclean—that its ancestor was a hero of the days of Fergus II., that he was a brother of Fitzgerald, the traditional progenitor of Clan Mackenzie, and that the race was one of the tribes driven out of Moray by Malcolm IV. in the year 1161. As a matter of fact, however, from its earliest days the Clan Maclean has been associated with the island of Mull. Its progenitor is said to have been a noted warrior who flourished early in the thirteenth century. The story runs that one day, hunting on Ben Talla, he lost his way in a fog. Some days later his companions found him in the last stage of exhaustion lying beside his battle-axe, which he had stuck into the ground near a cranberry bush to attract attention. From this he became known as Gilleain na Tuaighe, the Lad of the Battle-Axe. With his redoubtable weapon this chief played a distinguished part at the battle of Largs.

Among the notables set down in the Ragman's Roll, who did homage to Edward I. of England in 1296, appears "Gilliemoire Mackilyn," otherwise Gilliemoire MacGilleain or Gilmory Maclean. The son of this Gilmory, Eoin Dubh, appears in charters of the time of David II. about 1330, as possessor of lands in Mull. This Eoin Dubh, or John the Black, had two sons, Lachlan Lubanach and Hector Reaganach. The former of these was ancestor of the Macleans of Duart, and the latter of the Maclaines of Lochbuie, and it has been a matter of dispute which of the two was the elder son. The brothers lived in the time of Robert II., and at first appear to have been followers of MacDougall of Lorn. Some trouble having arisen, however, they cast in their lot with Macdonald of the Isles. Lachlan Lubanach became steward to the Lord of the Isles, married his daughter Mary in 1366, and in 1390 received from him charters of Duart, Brolas, and other lands in Mull. These charters brought the Macleans into collision with

the Mackinnons previously settled in the island, but, backed by the powerful alliance with the great house of the Isles, the fortunes of the Macleans never went back.

When Donald of the Isles marched across Scotland in 1411 to enforce his wife's claim to the great northern earldom of Ross, the second-in-command of his army was his nephew, Lachlan Lubanach's son, Eachuin ruadh nan cath, Red Hector of the Battles. In the great conflict at Harlaw in which the campaign ended, the Maclean Chief engaged in a hand to hand encounter with Irvine of Drum, a powerful Deeside baron. After a terrific combat the two fell dead together, and in token of that circumstance, for centuries the chiefs of the two families when they met were accustomed to exchange swords.

Meanwhile Red Hector's cousin Charles, son of Hector Reganach, settled in Glen Urquhart on Loch Ness, where he founded Clann Tchearlaich of Glen Urquhart and Dochgarroch, otherwise known as the "Macleans of the North," a sept which joined the Clan Chattan confederacy about the year 1460. Besides these Macleans of the North there were, before the end of that century, four powerful families of the clan. Descended from Lachlan Lubanach were the Macleans of Duart, the Macleans of Ardgour, and the Macleans of Coll, while descended from Hector Reganach were the MacLaines of Lochbuie.

The forfeiture of the last Lord of the Isles, who died in 1493, seems to have affected the fortunes of the Macleans very little. The event made them independent of the Macdonalds, and at the battle of the Bloody Bay near Tobermory in 1484 the royal fleet was led by the galley of Maclean of Ardgour. The battle went against him and Ardgour was made prisoner, his life being spared only on the good-humoured plea of Macdonald of Moidart that if he were slain there would be no one left for the Moidart men to fight with.

Meanwhile the son of Hector of the Battles, Lachlan Bromach of Duart, married Janet, daughter of Alexander Stewart, Earl of Mar, leader of the royal army which opposed Donald of the Isles at Harlaw, and which suffered defeat at the hands of Donald Balloch and the Islesmen at Inverlochy. The earl was the natural son of the Earl of Buchan, otherwise known as the Wolf of Badenoch, son of King Robert II., so that, although under the baton sinister, the Macleans inherited the blood of the Royal House of Stewart.



It was the grandson of this pair, Hector Odhar Maclean of Duart, who led the clan at the battle of Flodden in 1513. It is said he fell in an attempt to save the life of James IV. by throwing his body between the king and the English bowmen.

The son of this hero remains notorious in Island history for a very different act. For a second wife Lachlan Cattenach Maclean had married Elizabeth, daughter of the second Earl of Argyll. The marriage was not a success, and by way of getting rid of her he exposed the lady on a tidal rock in the Sound of Mull, expecting that nothing more would be heard of her. But, attracted by her shrieks, some fishermen rescued her, and on Maclean making his way to Inveraray to intimate his sad loss, he was to his horror confronted with his wife. The incident has been made the subject of poems by Joanna Bailie, Thomas Campbell, and Sir Walter Scott. Maclean fled to Edinburgh, but was followed there and stabbed in bed by the brother of the injured lady, Sir John Campbell of Cawdor. The event took place in the year 1523.

This chief's younger son was that Alan nan Sop, or Alan of the Wisp, whose story will be found in the account of Clan MacQuarrie, who as a freebooter became notorious for his use of the wisp in setting fire to the places he plundered, and who finally made conquest of Torloisk in the west of Mull, and founded the family of the Macleans of Torloisk.

Alan nan Sop's elder brother, Hector Mor, carried on the line of Duart. He married a daughter of Alexander Macdonald of Islay, but this connection did not prevent differences arising between the Macdonalds and Macleans, regarding which a bloody feud was carried on between the years 1585 and 1598, "to the destruction of well near all their country."

Hector Og, the son of Hector Mor, married in 1557, the Lady Janet, daughter of Archibald, fourth Earl of Argyll, and as the Campbells had for nearly three centuries been striving to supplant the Macdonalds as the most powerful family in the West, it may be understood that this alliance was not likely to discourage differences between these Macdonalds and the Macleans.

Hector Og's son, Sir Lachlan Mor Maclean of Duart, was a gallant and distinguished chief. He married a daughter of the sixth Earl of Glencairn, and in 1594 fought under his kinsman, the young seventh Earl of Argyll, in the disastrous battle against Huntly and Errol at Glenlivet. It was the policy of that Earl to sow strife among

neighbouring clans, and then avail himself of their differences and weakened state for his own aggrandisement. In this way he incited the MacNabs and Macgregors to attack their neighbours, then with letters of fire and sword proceeded to seize their lands. Whether or not Argyll was at the bottom of the strife, the feud between the Macleans and MacDonalds came to a head in 1598. The immediate issue was the possession of certain lands on Loch Gruinart in Islay. Before setting sail with a strong force to seize these lands, it is said that Sir Lachlan consulted a famous witch as to his prospects of success. The witch told him that he must not land in Islay on a Thursday, and must not drink out of the Tobar Neill Neonaich, Strange Neil's Well. Unfortunately, being caught in a storm, he was forced to land on just that day of the week, and being thirsty he drank from a spring near the spot, which turned out to be just that well. The tragic issue was helped by another act of Sir Lachlan Mor himself. Just before the battle a dwarf from Jura offered his services to the Maclean Chief and was scornfully rejected. Burning with indignation the dwarf, Dubh-sith, offered his services to the opposite side, and received a hearty welcome. In the battle which ensued, being unable to fight on equal terms, the Dubh-sith climbed into a tree. Presently he saw, as Sir Lachlan climbed a knoll, the joints of his armour open, and instantly letting fly an arrow, he slew the chief. This battle of the Rhinns of Islay ended the feud, as along with their chief the Macleans lost eighty gentlemen and two hundred other clansmen.

Sir Lachlan's elder son, still another Hector Og, married a daughter of the eleventh chief of Kintail, and their son Lachlan was the first baronet of Duart. By a second marriage, with a daughter of Sir Archibald Acheson of Gosford, he had another son, Donald of Brolas, whose son Lauchlan became M.P. for Argyllshire, and whose descendants were to inherit the chiefship as sixth and successive baronets.

Sir Lachlan Maclean was created a baronet of Nova Scotia, with the designation "of Morvern," by Charles I. in 1632, and from that time onward, through the Civil War and all the troubles of the Stewarts, the Macleans remained strong and faithful supporters of the Jacobite cause. Sir Lachlan himself joined the Marquess of Montrose, led his clan at Inverlochy, where he helped to win that signal victory over the Marquess of Argyll, and took part in the arduous campaign and battles which followed.



Two years after his death, his son, Sir Hector Maclean, fell fighting in the cause of Charles II. at Inverkeithing. It was after the defeat of the army of the Covenant by Cromwell at Dunbar. The Scottish forces fell back on Stirling, and to prevent them drawing supplies from Fife, Cromwell sent a force of four thousand men under General Lambert across the Forth at Queensferry. To encounter this force the Scots sent Holborn of Menstrie with twelve hundred horse and fifteen hundred infantry, and an encounter took place at Inverkeithing on Sunday, 20th July. At the beginning of the battle Holborn, who was both a coward and a traitor, fled with his cavalry, and the little force of infantry under Sir Hector Roy Maclean of Duart and Sir George Buchanan, chief of his clan, were shortly hemmed round and cut to pieces. The English made a continuous series of attacks on the spot where Sir Hector stood, severely wounded but still encouraging his men. The clansmen who survived, flocked round their chief, and again and again, as an attack was aimed at him, another and another gentleman of the clan sprang in front of him with the cry "Fear eil' air son Eachuinn!"—"Another for Hector!" to be cut down in turn. When no fewer than eight gentlemen of the name of Maclean had given their lives in this way Sir Hector himself fell, covered with wounds. As the ballad has it:

Sir Hector Roy, the stout Maclean,  
Fought one to ten, but all in vain,  
His broad claymore unsheathing.  
Himself lay dead, 'mid heaps of slain,  
For Charles at Inverkeithing.

It is from this incident that the clan derives one of its slogans, "Another for Hector!" The proceeding was used with telling effect by Sir Walter Scott as a feature of the combat on the North Inch, in his romance, "The Fair Maid of Perth."

Sir John Maclean, the fourth baronet, led his clan under Viscount Dundee in the cause of the Stewarts at the battle of Killiecrankie, and also, twenty-six years later, under the futile Earl of Mar at the battle of Sheriffmuir.

His son, Sir Hector, the fifth baronet, was arrested in Edinburgh in 1745, on suspicion of being in the French service, and of enlisting men in the Jacobite cause. He was confined in the Tower of London for two years, till liberated by the Act of Grace in 1747. Meanwhile the clan was led throughout the campaign by Maclean of Druimnin, and fought, five hundred strong, at Culloden,



where at least one of the mounded trenches among the heather may be seen at the present day marked with the name "Maclean."

Sir Hector died unmarried at Rome in 1750, and the chiefship, baronetcy, and estates then went to the great-grandson of Donald Maclean of Brolas, half-brother of the first baronet. Sir Allan died in 1783, also without male issue, and was succeeded in turn by two grandsons of the second son of Donald of Brolas. The latter of these, Sir Fitzroy Jeffreys Grafton Maclean, was colonel of the 45th regiment, and a lieutenant-general, and was present at the capture of the West Indian islands of Martinique and Guadeloupe. His grandson is the present chief, Sir Fitzroy Donald Maclean, Bart., K.C.B. Born in 1835 Sir Fitzroy served, as a young man, in Bulgaria and the Crimea, and was present at the battle of the Alma and the siege of Sebastopol. Through lack of food and shelter he fell into dysentery and fever, and would have died had he not been discovered by a friend of his father, who carried him on board his ship. He lost a son in the South African War. One of the most memorable days of his life was when he returned to Mull in August, 1912, and took possession of the ancient seat of his family, Duart Castle, amid the acclamations of Maclean clansmen from all parts of the world, and unfurled his banner from the ramparts. The castle dates from the thirteenth century, and was repaired and enlarged by Hector Mor Maclean, who was Lord of Duart from 1523 till 1568. In 1691 it was besieged by Argyll, and Sir John Maclean, the chief of that time, was forced to surrender it. After that date, though occasionally occupied by troops, the stronghold gradually fell to ruins, and the Duart properties passed to other hands till Sir Fitzroy repurchased Duart itself in 1912.

#### SEPTS OF THE MACLEANS OF DUART

Beath	Beaton
Black	Lean
Bowie	MacBheath
MacBeath	Macilduy
MacBeth	MacRankin
MacLergain	MacVey
MacVeagh	Rankin

#### SEPTS OF THE MACLAINES OF LOCHBUY

MacCormick	MacFadyen
MacFadzean	MacGilvra
Macilvora	



MAC LENNAN





## CLAN MACLENNAN

BADGE : Conasg (*Ulex Europæus*) furze.  
SLOGAN : Druim nan deur.

THE romantic district of Kintail, with its steep mountains and deep sea-lochs, on the western coast of Ross-shire, must be regarded as the heart of the old Mackenzie country. Eileandonan in Loch Duich was their chief stronghold, and far to north and south and east of it their word was law throughout a territory as extensive almost as that of the Campbell chiefs in the south. Yet Kintail was peopled almost entirely by two races which, so far as tradition or Highland genealogies declare, had no blood relationship with the Mackenzies themselves. Neither the MacRaes nor the MacLennans were conquered clans. Rather, to judge from their bearing and their treatment by the Mackenzies, do they appear to have held the position of honourable and valued allies. The MacRaes, we know, were known as "Seaforth's shirt of mail," and for generations held the office of Constable of Eileandonan, and it would appear as if the MacLennans were held in similar trust and esteem, and were Mackenzie's standard-bearers. The districts occupied by these two clans were separated only by a river running into Loch Duich; frequent intermarriage took place between them; but throughout the centuries they nevertheless remained unfused and distinct. Among other matters, the tartan of the MacLennans was quite different from that of the Mackenzies and Mac-Raes. The clan has laboured under the distinct disadvantage of being unable to name the head of any particular family as Chief; and while not reckoned a "broken" clan it has been accustomed to take the field under chiefs of other names. The MacLennans fought under the banners both of the Frasers and of the Mackenzies, and for this reason it is not possible to ascertain the actual strength of the clan, but there is no question that their valour was of the highest quality.

Under the Marquess of Montrose at the battle of Auldearn in 1645 the MacLennans as usual were entrusted with the banner of Lord Seaforth, the Mackenzie Chief.

Round that standard, the famous "Caber feidh," so called from its armorial bearing of a stag's head, a large number of them were cut down. It is on record that eighteen of the widows of those who fell afterwards married MacRaes from the neighbouring district of Kintail.

According to one derivation, the name MacLennan means simply the son of a sweetheart or young woman, but the sole authority seems to be a similarity of sound, and is not sanctioned by Highland usage. A tradition likely to be much more authentic carries the origin back to a certain Gilliegorm, Chief of the Logans of Druim-deurfait in Ross-shire at the end of the thirteenth century. After a bloody battle with the Frasers near Kessock, in which Gilliegorm fell, his widow was carried off, and soon afterwards gave birth to a son. The story runs that the boy was deliberately deformed in order to prevent his ever attempting to avenge his father. Educated in the monastery of Beaulieu, he was known from his deformity as Crotach (or Hump-backed) MacGhilliegorm, and on becoming a priest he travelled through the West Coast and Skye, founding churches at Kilmory in Sleat and Kilchrinan in Glenelg. Pope Innocent III. had issued the decree strictly enjoining the clergy of the Roman Church to celibacy; but whether MacGhilliegorm belonged to the older Columban or Culdee Church which allowed its clergy to marry, or whether he simply did not conform to the Papal edict, it appears that he was married and had several children. One of his sons was named Gillie Fhinan after the famous St. Finan. That son's son was of course MacGil'inan, which name was shortened by his descendants to MacLennan.

In the annals of the MacLennans considerable space is taken up with the exploits of a member of the clan who was as remarkable for the ingenuity with which he planned his fraudulent enterprises as for the audacity with which he carried them out. On a dark night, for instance, when a certain dealer was leading a string of horses to a distant tryst or market, MacLennan waylaid the convoy, and, cutting the rope, made off unperceived with a number of the animals. To complete the transaction he rapidly trimmed the stolen horses, altogether altering their appearance, and at a later stopping-place on the journey, actually succeeded in selling them at a good price to their original owner. On another occasion, it is said, he joined a party of smugglers preparing on a stormy and moonless night to transport their illicit product over the mountains. Passing as one of themselves, he was entrusted with the

carrying of one of the kegs, with which he presently contrived to drop behind and disappear. Yet again, in the character of a seannachie or bard, he was employed by a certain laird, after the fashion of the time, to lull him to sleep by the recitation of ancient poems. Having sent his unsuspecting employer into a sound slumber, he betook himself to the stable, untied several horses, and silently swam them to the opposite side of the loch. Leaving them in a place of concealment he as silently returned, and was still going on with his poetic recitation when the laird awoke. Next day, when the theft was discovered, he remained unsuspected, but presently another person having been arrested for the offence and in danger of hanging, MacLennan handsomely confessed his exploit, and, restoring the horses with a flourish of generosity, was allowed to go unpunished.

About the same time another member of the clan made a name for himself in a different way. The Rev. Murdoch MacLennan was minister of Crathie on Deeside at the date when the Earl of Mar raised the standard of "James VIII. and I." in that neighbourhood. The rising, which with vigorous and able leadership, might have succeeded in replacing the Stewarts on the throne, was denied all promise of success by the inefficiency and indecision of Mar himself, and when at long last it came to blows with the forces of George I. under the Duke of Argyll on the Sheriffmuir above Dunblane, the conflict was as inconclusive as all the other acts of the campaign. The event roused the Rev. Murdoch MacLennan to satire, and in a humorous poem of twenty-one verses, in an original form of stanza, he not only enumerated the leaders on both sides and their parts in the flight, but chronicled the result in singularly appropriate lines—

" And we ran and they ran,  
And they ran and we ran,  
And we ran and they ran awa' man."

A more modern author is Mr. J. F. M'Lennan, whose *Studies in Ancient History, Exogamy, Primitive Marriage, The Patriarchal Theory*, and other works contain much learning and information.

SEPTS OF CLAN MACLENNAN

Lobban  
Logan



## CLAN MACLEOD

**BADGE, MacLeod of Harris :** Craobh aiteann (juniperis communis) juniper bush.

**MacLeod of Lewis :** Lus nam Braoileag (Vaccinium vitis-idea) red whortleberry.

**PIBROCH :** Iomradh Mhic Leoid.

\* **MANY** hundreds of visitors to the Outer Hebrides to-day—yachtsmen and passengers by Messrs. MacBrayne's steamers—are familiar with the noble old towers of Dunvegan at the head of Loch Bracadale on the western side of Skye. The ancient seat of the MacLeods towering on its rocks is not only the most romantic dwelling in the Isles, but the oldest inhabited mansion in Scotland, having been one of the sea-eyries built by the Norse rovers in the ninth or tenth century, and continuously inhabited to the present day. Nothing more picturesque could well be imagined than its cluster of square towers and embattled walls rising above the wild crags of the shore, and there is nothing more interesting in the record of the Western Isles than the story of the chiefs of MacLeod who, for so many centuries, have made it their stronghold and home. Probably no better description of the castle is to be found than that given by Sir Walter Scott in his diary of the voyage he made in the yacht of the Lighthouse Commissioners in August, 1814. This runs as follows: "Wake under the Castle of Dunvegan in the Loch of Folliart. I had sent a card to the Laird of MacLeod in the morning, who came off before we were dressed, and carried us to his castle to breakfast. A part of Dunvegan is very old; 'its birth tradition notes not.' Another large tower was built by the same Alister MacLeod whose burial-place and monument we saw yesterday at Rodel. He had a Gaelic surname, signifying the Humpbacked. Roderick More (knighted by James VI.) erected a long edifice combining these two ancient towers; and other pieces of building, forming a square, were accomplished at different times. The whole castle occupies a precipitous mass of rock overhanging the lake, divided by two or three islands in that place, which form a snug little harbour under the walls. There is a court-yard looking



MAC LEOD





out upon the sea, protected by a battery—at least a succession of embrasures, for only two guns are pointed, and these unfit for service. The ancient entrance rose up a flight of steps cut in the rock, and passed into this courtyard through a portal, but this is now demolished. You land under the castle, and, walking round, find yourself in front of it. This was originally inaccessible, for a brook coming down on the one side, a chasm of the rocks on the other, and a ditch in front, made it impervious. But the late MacLeod built a bridge over the stream, and the present laird is executing an entrance suitable to the character of this remarkable fortalice, by making a portal between two advanced towers and an outer court, from which he proposes to throw a drawbridge over to the high rock in front of the castle. This, if well executed, cannot fail to have a good and characteristic effect.”

On the first night of his visit Scott slept in the haunted chamber of the castle, which is still pointed out, and he gives an account of his impressions in the last of his “Letters on Demonology and Witchcraft.” He had previously slept in the haunted chamber of the ancient castle of Glamis in Strathmore, and his impressions here were somewhat similar. “Amid such tales of ancient tradition,” he says, “I had from MacLeod and his lady the courteous offer of the haunted apartment of the castle, about which, as a stranger, I might be supposed interested. Accordingly I took possession of it about the witching hour. Except, perhaps, some tapestry hangings, and the extreme thickness of the walls, which argued great antiquity, nothing could have been more comfortable than the interior of the apartment; but if you looked from the windows, the view was such as to correspond with the highest tone of superstition. An autumnal blast, sometimes clear, sometimes driving mist before it, swept along the troubled billows of the lake, which it occasionally concealed, and by fits disclosed. The waves rushed in wild disorder on the shore, and covered with foam the steep pile of rocks, which, rising from the sea in forms something resembling the human figure, have obtained the name of MacLeod’s Maidens, and, in such a night, seemed no bad representative of the Norwegian goddesses, called Choosers of the Slain, or Riders of the Storm. There was something of the dignity of danger in the scene; for, on a platform beneath the windows, lay an ancient battery of cannon, which had sometimes been used against privateers even of late years. The distant scene was a view of that part of the Quillen mountains which are called, from their

form, MacLeod's Dining-Tables. The voice of an angry cascade, termed the Nurse of Rorie Mhor, because that chief slept best in its vicinity, was heard from time to time mingling its notes with those of wind and wave. Such was the haunted room at Dunvegan."

Among the characteristic relics in the castle, which Scott saw, and which are still treasured there, were the drinking horn of Rorie Mhor, an ox's horn tipped with silver, which each chief of the MacLeods, on coming of age, was expected to drain at a single draught; the Dunvegan cup, a beautifully chased and ornamented silver chalice of the fifteenth century, which Scott by a misreading of the inscription round its rim made out to date from 500 years earlier; and the famous Fairy Flag said to have been given to a Chief of the MacLeods either by an Irish princess or a fairy bride, but which is most likely a trophy brought home from one of the crusades by some early warrior. "It is a pennon of silk with something like round red rough berries wrought upon it, and its properties," as, described by Scott, were that "produced in battle it multiplied the number of the MacLeods; spread on the nuptial bed it ensured fertility; and, lastly, it brought herring into the loch." According to tradition the flag has already been twice displayed, and produced its expected results. When displayed for the third time it will have the same effect, but it and its bearer will forthwith disappear from earth.

The Chief of MacLeod of Scott's time was busily engaged in planting trees and improving his estate. "If he does not hurry too fast," said the novelist, "he cannot fail to be of service to his people. He seems to think and act much like the chief, without the fanfaronade of the character." When Scott and his party left they were accompanied to the yacht by MacLeod himself, with his piper playing in the bows in proper style, and were sent off with a salute of seven guns from the castle. The episode concludes with the entry, "the Chief returns ashore with his piper playing 'The MacLeods' Gathering,' heard to advantage along the calm and placid loch, and dying as it retreated from us."

Fifty years before Scott's time Dunvegan was visited by Dr. Samuel Johnson and his biographer Boswell, both of whom have left characteristic records of their impressions of the place. Also at a more recent day a brief visit was paid by the poet Alexander Smith, who has left some account of it in his well-known book, *A Summer in Skye*. More recently still, a very full and excellent



account of the castle and its chiefs is to be found in Canon MacCulloch's charming volume, *The Misty Isle of Skye*.

According to popular tradition, cited in Douglas's *Baronage*, the MacLeods were descended from the Norwegian kings of Man; but there is equally strong reason to believe that, in the male line at least, they belonged to the ancient Celtic inhabitants of the country. They come first out of the mists of the past as allodial owners of Glenelg, the possession of which was confirmed to them in the person of Malcolm, son of Tormod, by David II. in the fourteenth century, in a charter under which the chief obliged himself to provide a galley of thirty-six oars for the king's use when required. Dunvegan and the lands of Skye came into MacLeod's possession by marriage with a daughter of MacRaid, the heiress of a Norwegian chief. At the same time, the MacLeod chiefs appear to have been owners of lands in Harris and the Lewis.

A younger brother of Tormod, already mentioned, Torquil MacLeod of the Lewis, married the heiress of the Chief of the MacNicols, and through her came into possession of the district of Assynt and other lands in Wester Ross, for which he obtained a charter from David II. His descendants became independent chiefs, and were known as the Siol Thorcuil or Race of Torquil, while the descendants of his elder brother were known as the Siol Thormod or Race of Tormod. At a later day the MacLeods of Assynt were represented by MacLeod of Raasa. These MacLeods of Lewis and Assynt had their own history, which was stirring enough. There is in particular the much-disputed episode of the arrest of the great Marquess of Montrose in 1651, which by some is held to have cast a stain upon the name, and by others is believed not to have been the work of MacLeod of Assynt at all, but of his wife or one of his clansmen in the ordinary course of duty in his absence.

Meanwhile the MacLeods of MacLeod, the race of Tormod, with their seat at Dunvegan, played a most notable part in the history of the Western Isles. They were among the chiefs who fought on the side of Bruce, and a son of the Chief accompanied Donald of the Isles in the raid which ended at the battle of Harlaw in 1411. A typical incident of that history was the feud with the MacKays, of which the most outstanding incident was a bloody battle on the marches of Ross and Sutherland in the first years of the fifteenth century, from which the



only survivor on MacLeod's side was a solitary clansman who made his way, seriously wounded, home to his native Lewis, told his tale and died in the telling of it. Another famous feud was that which followed the marriage of MacLeod of the Lewis with the widow of the Chief of the Mathiesons of Lochalsh, executed by James I. at Edinburgh in 1427. Disputes arose between MacLeod and his stepsons, the young Mathiesons. John, the elder of these, sought the protection of his maternal grandfather, Chief of the MacIntosh's, and by and by, with the help of the latter, returned to claim his possessions. He attacked the castle of Lochalsh in which MacLeod and his wife defended themselves. When the stronghold was set on fire Mathieson, anxious to save his mother, stationed himself at the gate, and gave orders that she was to be allowed to pass. When she did so in the darkness and tumult, it was not noticed that she was taking with her, hidden under the wide folds of her arisaid or belted plaid the person of her husband, MacLeod himself. Presently the latter returned with a force of his own men from the Lewis, but was repulsed by young Mathieson, chiefly by the help of his bowmen, from which fact the battle is still called *Blar nan Saigheadear*. Making still another attempt to recapture the castle, MacLeod was slain and the feud ended.

One of the great battles in which the MacLeods engaged with their enemies of the Isles is commemorated in the name of the Bloody Bay, on the coast of Mull, two miles north of Tobermory, where the Macdonalds, under Angus Og, son of the last Lord of the Isles, about 1484, overthrew the fleet of James III., fitted out by the Earls of Atholl and Argyll, and Macleod of Harris was slain.

The MacLeods, however, were still to perform an act of friendship towards the MacDonalds. At the end of the fifteenth century, when James IV. was endeavouring to put an end to the constant clan troubles in the Hebrides, caused by the efforts to revive the broken power of the Lord of the Isles, Torquil MacLeod of the Lewis was the most notable of the chiefs who resisted the efforts of the king's lieutenants, first the Earl of Argyll and afterwards the Earl of Huntly. It was only by the efforts of James IV. himself that the Islesmen were finally brought to peaceful submission. Last of them all, Torquil MacLeod—who, by the way, was Argyll's brother-in-law, and had been forfeited by command of Parliament—retired to his stronghold of Stornoway Castle. He had with him his relative, Donald Dubh, son of that Angus Og who had

won the battle of the Bloody Bay, and claimant of the Lordship of the Isles. But in the end Stornoway Castle was captured by the Earl of Huntly, Donald Dubh driven to Ireland, and the insurrection of the Islesmen brought to an end.

Perhaps the most tragic incident connected with Dunvegan took place in the middle of the sixteenth century. In 1552 William, the ninth chief, died. In the absence of his two brothers, Donald and Torquil, the clansmen acknowledged as chief Ian the Fair-haired, a descendant of the sixth Chief of the MacLeods. On the return of Donald a meeting was held at Lyndale, when Ian the Fair-haired was again chosen chief. Donald thereupon retired to Kingsburgh. Here he was approached by Ian Dubh, a son of Ian the Fair-haired, with offers of friendship, and, being enticed to a meeting at midnight, was forthwith slain, with six of his followers. Ian the Fair-haired ordered the arrest of Ian Dubh, but died before it could be effected. His eldest son Tormod was dead, but had left three sons, to whom Donald Breac, the brother of Ian Dubh, was guardian. When Donald Breac and the three boys returned from the funeral they found Dunvegan in possession of Ian Dubh, with the boys' mother a prisoner within. On Donald demanding possession, the doorway at the top of the narrow stair above the landing-place opened, and Ian Dubh appeared in full armour. Donald rushed up to the attack, but was presently slain. The three sons of Tormod were also put to the sword by Ian Dubh, who proceeded to shut up his remaining brothers, with the wives and children of the other leaders of the clan, in the castle dungeons.

The Campbells now stepped in as guardians of Mary, the only child of the ninth chief, William. They landed with a large force at Roag in Loch Bracadale, met Ian Dubh in the church of Kilmuir, and arranged terms. Ian Dubh then invited the eleven Campbell chieftains to a feast at Dunvegan. The feast is said to have taken place in what is now the drawing-room of the castle. There each Campbell found himself seated between two MacLeods. At the end of the feast, instead of a cup of wine, a cup of blood was set before each guest, and forthwith at the signal each Campbell was stabbed in the throat by a MacLeod.

The final scene in the drama took place in 1559. Torquil MacLeod, brother of the ninth Chief, then arrived to claim the chiefship, and a warder, Torquil MacSween, was induced to betray the castle. Hearing a noise, Ian



Dubh sprang from bed. Seeing all was lost he fled to his galley and escaped to Harris. Thence he made his way to Ireland, where presently he was seized by the O'Donnell chief, and horribly slain by having a red-hot iron thrust through his bowels.

But the main feuds of the MacLeods were with the MacDonalds of the Isles, who were their own near neighbours in Skye. Already in the days of King Robert III. they had signally defeated that powerful clan, but it was towards the close of the sixteenth century that the most notable events in the feud occurred. In the latter part of the century the MacLeans of Mull were at bitter feud with the MacDonalds of Islay. In that feud they were generously helped by the MacLeods. One of the traditions of Dunvegan of that time is told in *A Summer in Skye*. On a certain wild night MacDonald of Sleat was driven on his barge into the loch, and forced to ask shelter from MacLeod. He was admitted with his piper and twelve followers, but at dinner, noticing the ominous boar's head upon the table, refused to leave his men and sit above the salt. Over the wine after dinner some bad blood was occasioned by MacDonald's boasting about his dirk and his powers of using it, and a serious tragedy might have occurred but for a sweetheart of one of the MacDonalds, who, as she passed her lover with a dish, whispered to him to beware of the barn in which he was to sleep. The man told his master, and, instead of going to sleep on the heaps of heather which had been prepared for them in the barn, the MacDonalds spent the night in a cave outside. At midnight the barn was a mass of flame, and the MacLeods thought they had killed their enemies; but presently, much to their astonishment they saw MacDonald march past the castle with his twelve men, his piper playing a defiance to Dunvegan, and, before anything could be done, the barge set sail and sped down the loch.

In the course of the warfare with the MacDonalds the most terrible event took place on the Isle of Eigg. The tradition runs that a small party of MacLeods had landed on that island, and ill-treated some of the women. They were seized, bound hand and foot, and set adrift in their own boat, but managed to reach Dunvegan. Forthwith, to avenge them, the MacLeod Chief sailed for Eigg. Seeing his overwhelming force the inhabitants of the island, some 200 in number, took shelter in a great cave which had a single narrow entrance. Their plan seemed successful. Macleod searched the island, but failed to



find them, and at last set sail. Looking back, however, the MacLeods spied a man on the top of the island. Returning immediately, by means of his footsteps in a sprinkling of snow which had fallen, they traced him to the mouth of the cave. There they demanded that the persons who had set their men adrift should be given up for punishment. This was refused; whereupon MacLeod ordered his men to gather heather and brushwood. This was piled against the mouth of the cave and set on fire, and the blaze was kept up until all within were suffocated to death.

By way of retaliation for this massacre, on a Sunday when the MacLeods of Vaternish were at service in the church at Trumpan, a body of MacDonalds from Uist, having landed at Ardmore, set fire to the fane, and burnt it with all its worshippers except one woman, who escaped through a window. The MacDonald galleys, however, and the smoke of the burning, had been seen from Dunvegan, and MacLeod had sent out the Fiery Cross. As he came within sight, the MacDonalds rushed to their boats; but the tide had left them high and dry, and as they struggled to launch them the MacLeods rushed to the attack, and everyone of the MacDonalds was slain. The bodies of the dead were laid in a long row beside a turf dyke at the spot, and the dyke was overthrown upon them, from which fact the battle is known as Blar Milleadh Garaidh, the Battle of the Spoiling of the Dyke. A few years later the MacDonalds made another raid and swept off all MacLeod's cattle; but they were overtaken near the same spot, a terrible fight took place, and nearly everyone of the MacDonalds was killed. It is said that on each side, on this last occasion, a blacksmith remained fighting in full armour. The MacLeod blacksmith was beginning to faint from loss of blood when his wife came upon the scene, and with a cry struck the enemy with her distaff. MacDonald turned his head, and at the moment was run through and slain. In the same battle a son of MacLeod of Unish was fighting valiantly when a MacDonald rushed at him, and hewed off his legs at the knees. Nevertheless MacLeod continued to fight standing on his stumps, and the spot where at last he fell is still known after him as the Knoll of the Son of Ian.

Again, at Cnoc a Chrochaidh, the hanging-hill in the same neighbourhood, another act of justice took place. A son of Judge Morrison of the Lewis had been on a visit to Dunvegan, and afterwards on Asay island had killed some MacLeods. He was pursued and overtaken here,

and hanged on three of his own oars. Before the hanging he was told to kneel and say his prayers, and long afterwards some silver coins found in a crevice of the rocks were believed to have been treasure concealed by him during his devotions.

It was at one of the battles near Trumpan that the fairy flag is believed to have been last displayed.

Perhaps most famous of the MacLeod chiefs was Roderick or Ruarie More of Dunvegan, from whom the waterfall beside the castle takes its name. Along with his contemporary, Roderick MacLeod of the Lewis, he had resisted the order of King James VI. that all landowners in the Highlands must produce their charters. Accordingly the property of the two chiefs was declared forfeited, and an attempt was made to settle Lewis and Skye by a syndicate from the East of Scotland. The Fife Adventurers reached the Western Isles late in 1598, but they were not long allowed to remain at peace. In the Lewis, Neil MacLeod rushed the settlement at dead of night and slew fifty of the colonists, and after a renewed attack and slaughter the rest were forced to depart home. A second attempt of the same kind was made in 1605, and a third in 1609, with the same disastrous consequences. Also in 1607 an attempt was made to form a contract with the Marquess of Huntly to effect the civilisation of Lewis and Skye by exterminating the inhabitants, and it only failed because the Privy Council would not accept Huntly's offer of £400 Scots for the island. At the same time, Spens of Wormiston, who had received a grant of Dunvegan, was prevented by the MacLeod chief from obtaining possession, and at last in 1610 MacLeod was enabled to procure a free pardon, and was knighted by King James. It was this Chief who built Rorie More's Tower, and placed on it the effigies of himself and his lady, a daughter of Glengarry. He also added much to the family estates, and did his best to put an end to the ancient feuds with his neighbours.

In the Civil Wars the clan fought on the Royalist side, and at the battle of Worcester it suffered so severely that the other clans agreed it should not be asked to join any warlike expedition until its strength was restored. As a result of his loyalty, in 1655 MacLeod was fined £2,500, and obliged to give security to the amount of £6,000 sterling for his obedience to the Commonwealth.

The MacLeods were reported by General Wade in 1715 to be 1,000 strong; and in 1745 MacLeod, it was said, could put 900 men in the field. He did not, however.



join Prince Charlie, though many of his clansmen fought on the Jacobite side.

A strange episode of that time, in which MacLeod was concerned, was the abduction of the unhappy Lady Grange. The lady's husband, a judge of the Court of Session, was a brother of the Jacobite Earl of Mar. The marriage was most unhappy, and the lady is said to have threatened to reveal her husband's Jacobite plots. Then in 1731 it was given out that Lady Grange had died, and there was a mock funeral in Edinburgh. Meanwhile, with the aid of the MacLeod Chief and Lord Lovat, she was carried off, kept first on the Isle of Heiskar, to the west of North Uist, and afterwards at the lonely St. Kilda. In 1741 she managed to send letters to her law agent, Hope of Rankeillor, and the latter fitted out an armed vessel for her rescue. MacLeod, however, was forewarned, and had Lady Grange removed first to Harris and afterwards to Skye, where she wandered imbecile for some seven years. At last, in 1745, the year of Charles Edward's landing, she died. Another mock funeral then took place at Durinish, but she was really buried at Trumpan, where the Earl of Mar set up a monument to her memory a few years ago. Among the papers at Dunvegan are still extant the accounts of the unfortunate lady's board and funeral.

In later days the MacLeod chiefs have been noted for their benevolence, their endeavours for the improving of their estates, and their interest in the welfare of their clansmen. Among them none has been held in more affectionate regard than the present owner of Dunvegan. No Chief in the Highlands more faithfully cherishes the best traditions of the past, or more faithfully fulfils the obligations of the present, and none is more beloved by his people, or more worthy of their affection and esteem.

#### SEPTS OF CLAN MACLEOD OF HARRIS

Beaton	Bethune
Beton	MacCaig
MacClure	MacCrimmon
MacCuaig	MacHarrold
Macraill	Norman

#### SEPTS OF CLAN MACLEOD OF LEWIS

Callum	Lewis
MacAskill	MacAulay
MacCallum	MacCaskill
MacCorkindale	MacCorquodale
MacLewis	MacNicol
Malcolmson	Nicholl
Nicol	Nicoll
Nicholson	Nicolson
Tolmie	



## CLAN MACMILLAN

BADGE : Dearcag monaidh (*Vaccinium uliginosum*) bilberry.

ACCORDING to universal tradition the Macmillans are of the same blood as the Buchanans, and Skene in his *Highlanders of Scotland* derives both, along with the Monros, from the Siol O'Cain—the race of O'Cain, otherwise O'Cathan of Clan Chattan. According to Buchanan of Auchmar, the immediate ancestor of the Macmillans is believed to have been a certain Methlan, second son of Anselan, seventh chief of Buchanan, who flourished in the reign of Alexander II., in the first half of the thirteenth century.

Their original home, to which Skene thinks they must have been removed from North Moray by Malcolm IV., was at Lawers, on the north shore of Loch Tay, but from that possession they were driven in the reign of David II., the middle of the fourteenth century, by the Chalmerses, Chamberses, or Camerarii, who obtained a feudal charter to the lands, and who were themselves afterwards forfeited for the part they played in the assassination of James I. The Macmillan chief who was thus expelled had ten sons, certain of whom became progenitors of the Ardournag and other families in Breadalbane; but the chief migrated to Argyllshire, where he obtained a property from the Lord of the Isles in South Knapdale, and became known as Macmillan of Knap. Macmillan is said to have had his charter engraved in Gaelic on the top of a rock at the boundary of his land.

The Macmillans are believed to have increased their possessions in Knapdale by marriage with an heiress of the MacNeil chiefs, and there is evidence that they became of considerable importance in the district. One of the towers of Sweyn Castle on the loch of that name is known as Macmillan's Tower, and in the old kirkyard of Kilmorie Knap, where the chapel was built by the Macmillan chief, stands a cross more than twelve feet high richly sculptured with foliage, and showing a Highland chief engaged in a deer hunt, with the inscription, "Haec est crux Alexandri Macmillan."



MAC MILLAN





Among traditions extant regarding these Macmillans of Knapdale is one of a certain Gillespie Ban. This individual was unfortunate enough while attending a fair to quarrel with a personage of some importance and to slay his man in hot blood. He fled and was instantly pursued. Managing to reach Inveraray Castle he rushed in, and making his way to the kitchen found the cook engaged in baking. Instantly procuring a change of clothes and an apron, he proceeded busily to knead barley bannocks, and when his infuriated pursuers came to the castle they took him for a regular domestic of the earl. The necessary respite being thus allowed him, a composition was made with the family of the man he had slain, and he was allowed to live thereafter in peace. He settled in Glendaruel, where his descendants were known, from the circumstances of his escape, by the patronymic of MacBacster, or "sons of the baker."

Another tradition runs that the line of the Macmillans of Knap ended with a chief who had a tragic experience. In order to defend the honour of his wife from the advances of a too powerful admirer he attacked and slew the man, and in consequence was forced to abscond.

The main line then becoming extinct, the chiefship was assumed, rightly, it is believed, by Macmillan of Dunmore, on the south side of Loch Tarbert. This family also, however, died out, upon which a contention arose between the Campbells and MacNeils as to possession of the Macmillan lands. The matter was finally arranged, by means of mutual concessions, in favour of the Campbells, and in 1775 the estates were purchased by Sir Archibald Campbell of Inverneil.

Meanwhile, at an earlier day, a branch of the chief's house had settled elsewhere. The reason for this occurrence is the subject of a well-known tradition. A stranger, it appears, known as Marallach More, established himself in Knapdale and proceeded by his overbearing disposition to make himself objectionable to the Macmillans. He made himself especially obnoxious, it would appear, to one of the chief's sons, who lived at Kilchamag. The affair came to an open rupture, and at last, either in a duel or in a general fight, Macmillan killed the aggressor, but in consequence had to leave the district. With six followers he migrated to Lochaber, when he placed himself under the protection of Cameron of Lochiel and was settled on certain lands beside Loch Arkaig.

Another tradition runs that the earliest seat of the Macmillans was on both sides of Loch Arkaig; that, on

Lochaber being granted to the Lord of the Isles the clan became vassals of that powerful chief; and that, when the Cameron's obtained possession of the district, the Macmillans became in turn their dependants, in which situation ever after they remained. This tradition, however, seems to be negated by the fact that Macmillan of Knap was recognised as Chief of the clan.

Latterly, according to Buchanan of Auchmar, the Macmillans in Lochaber, known from the district of their residence as the Clan Ghille Mhaoil Aberaich, dwelt in Muir Laggan, Glen Spean, and Caillie. Their military force was reckoned at one hundred fighting men; they were among the trustiest followers of Lochiel, and were employed by him generally in the most desperate of his enterprises. One incident is on record which shows the esteem in which they were held by the Cameron chief. Late in the seventeenth century some cause of trouble arose between them and the MacGhilleonies, a sept of the Camerons, and, in a fight with twelve of these latter, one of the Macmillan's was killed. In fear of consequences the twelve MacGhilleonies fled to the fastnesses of the hills, hoping to maintain themselves there till the Macmillans could be appeased. But the Macmillans demanded from Lochiel permission to pursue the aggressors, and threatened that if this permission were not granted, they would wreak their vengeance on the whole offending sept. Lochiel perforce gave leave, and the Macmillans set about the hunting of the fugitives with such energy, that in a short time, without the loss of life to themselves, though many of them were sorely wounded, all the twelve MacGhilleonies were either slain or captured.

In more recent times one of the Lochaber Macmillans returned to the south, and taking up residence at Badokennan, near the head of Loch Fyne, became ancestor of the Macmillans of Glen Shera, Glen Shira, and others.

Still another branch of the Macmillans have been for centuries settled in Galloway. According to tradition they are an offshoot of the Macmillans of Loch Tayside who went south when the chiefs of the clan were driven from Lawers by the Chalmerses. These Galloway Macmillans played a notable part on the side of the Covenanters in the latter part of the seventeenth century, and their doings are recorded by Wodrow, the chief historian of that page of Scottish history. The most noted of them was the Rev. John Macmillan, who published several controversial pamphlets, and was deposed for schismatic practices in 1703. He was the first pastor of the "Reformed Presbyterians," and ministered to the "remnant" from 1706 till 1743.



LAWERS, LOCH TAY, ORIGINAL SEAT OF THE MACMILLAN CHIEFS





Even to the present time the Covenanters in Galloway are as often called Macmillanites as Cameronians.

Another noted member of the clan was Angus Macmillan, who emigrated to Australia in 1829, and discovered and explored the country south-west of Sydney, afterwards called Gippsland.

Celebrated in yet another way was Daniel Macmillan, son of a small farmer at the Cock of Arran, who with his brother Alexander founded the great publishing firm of Macmillan & Co. in the middle of the nineteenth century, publishing Kingsley's *Westward Ho* in 1855 and *Tom Brown's School Days* in 1857.

## SEPTS OF CLAN MACMILLAN

Baxter  
Brown

Bell  
MacBaxter

## CLAN MACNAB

BADGE : Giuthas (Pinus sylvestris) pine.  
PIBROCH : Failte mhic an Abba.

It is recorded by Lockhart in his *Life of Sir Walter Scott* that the great romancer once confessed that he found it difficult to tell over again a story which had caught his fancy without "giving it a hat and stick." Among the stories to which Sir Walter was no doubt wont to make such additions were more than one which had for their subject the somewhat fantastic figure of Francis MacNab, chief of that clan, whose portrait, painted by Raeburn, is one of the most famous achievements of that great Scottish artist, and who, after a warm-hearted and somewhat convivial career, died at Callander on 25th May, 1816. It was one of these presumably partly true stories, fathered upon the Chief, which Scott was on one occasion telling at the breakfast table at Abbotsford when his wife, who did not always understand the point of the narrative, looked up from her coffee pot, and, with an attempt to show herself interested in the matter in hand, exclaimed "And is MacNab dead?" Struck of a heap by the innocent ineptitude of the remark, Scott, says Lockhart, looked quizzically at his wife, and with a smile replied, "Well, my dear, if he isn't dead they've done him a grave injustice, for they've buried him."

Another story of MacNab, told by Sir Walter, this time in print, had probably truth behind it, for it was in full agreement with the humour and shortcomings of the Chief. The latter, it is said, was somewhat in the habit of forgetting to pay all his outstanding debts before he left Edinburgh for his Highland residence at the western end of Loch Tay, and on one occasion a creditor had the temerity to send a Sheriff's officer into the Highlands to collect the account. MacNab, who saw the messenger arrive at Kinnell, at once guessed his errand. With great show of Highland hospitality he made the man welcome, and would not allow any talk of business that night. In the morning, when the messenger awoke and looked from his bedroom window, he was horrified to see the figure of a man suspended from the branch of a tree in front of the house.





MAC NAB



Making his way downstairs, he enquired of a servant the meaning of the fearful sight, and was answered by the man casually that it was "Just a bit tam messenger body that had the presumption to bring a bit o' paper frae Edinburgh to ta Laird." Needless to say, when breakfast time came the Sheriff's officer was nowhere to be found.

Many other stories not told by Sir Walter Scott, were wont to be fathered upon the picturesque figure of the MacNab Chief. One of these may be enough to show their character.

On one occasion, it is said, MacNab paid a visit to the new Saracen Head Inn in Glasgow, and, on being shown to his room for the night, found himself confronted with a great four-poster bed, a contrivance with which he had not hitherto made acquaintance. Looking at it for a moment he said to his man, "Donald, you go in there," pointing to the bed itself; "the MacNab must go aloft." And with his man's help he made his way to the higher place on the canopy. After an hour or two, it is said, he addressed his henchman. "Donald," he whispered; but the only reply was a snore from the happy individual ensconced upon the feathers below. "Donald, ye rascal," he repeated, and, having at last secured his man's attention, enquired, "Are ye comfortable down there?" Donald declared that he was comfortable, whereupon MacNab is said to have rejoined, "Man, if it werena for the honour of the thing I think I would come down beside ye!"

The little old mansion-house of Kinnell, in which Francis, Chief of MacNab, entertained his friends not wisely but too well, still stands in the pleasant meadows on the bank of the Dochart opposite Killin, not far from the spot where that river enters Loch Tay. It is now a possession of the Earl of Breadalbane, but it still contains many curious and interesting pieces of antique furniture and other household plenishing which belonged to the old chiefs of the clan. Among these, in the little old low-roofed dining-room, which has seen many a revel in days gone by, remains the quaint gate-legged oak table with folding wings and drawers, the little low sideboard, black with age, with spindle legs and brass mountings, the corner cupboard with carved doors, the fine old writing bureau with folding top and drawers underneath, and the antique "wag at the wa'" clock still ticking away the time, between the two windows, which witnessed the hospitalities of the redoubtable Laird of MacNab himself. Among minor relics in a case in the drawing-room are his watch, dated 1787, his snuff-box, seal, spectacles, and shoe buckles, while above



the dining-room door are some pewter flagons bearing the inscriptions, probably carved on them by some guest :

Here's beef on the board  
And there's troot on the slab,  
Here's welcome for a'  
And a health to MacNab.

and

For warlocks and bogles  
We're nae carin' a dab,  
Syne safe for the night  
'Neath the roof o' MacNab.

Besides old toddy ladles of horn and silver, great cut-glass decanters, silver quaichs, and pewter salvers, and a set of rare old round-bowled pewter spoons, some or all of which were MacNab possessions, there is the Kinnell Bottle bearing the following inscription : " It is stated the Laird had a bottle that held nine gallons (nine bottles ?) which was the joy of his friends. This holds nine bottles, the gift of a friend." The late Laird of Kinnell, the Marquess of Breadalbane, took great pains to collect and retain within the walls of the little old mansion as many relics as possible of its bygone owners, and amid such suggestive relics as " the long gun " of the MacNabs, a primitive weapon of prodigious length and weight; the old Kinnell basting-spoon, known as Francis's Porridge Spoon—long enough to be used for supping with a certain personage; and the actual brass candlestick which belonged to the terrible Smooth John MacNab presently to be mentioned, it is not difficult to picture the life which was led here in the valley of the Dochart by the old lairds of MacNab and their households.

Kinnell is famous to-day for another possession, nothing less than the largest vine in the world. This is a black Hamburg of excellent quality, half as large again as that at Hampton Court. It has occupied its present position since 1837, and is capable of yielding a thousand bunches of grapes in the year, each weighing a pound and a half, though it is never allowed to ripen more than half that number.

Kinnell House of the present day, however, is not the original seat of the MacNab Chief. This was situated some hundreds of yards nearer the loch than the present mansion-house, and though no traces of it now exist, the spot is associated with not a few incidents which remain among the most dramatic and characteristic in Highland history.

Most famous of these incidents is that which terminated the feud of the MacNabs with Clan Neish, whose head-



*Photo, T. & R. Annan & Sons.*

*From the Painting by Sir Henry Raeburn.*

FRANCIS, 12th CHIEF OF MACNAB





quarters were at St. Fillans on Lochearnside, some twelve miles away. The two clans had fought out their feud in a great battle in Glen Boltachan, above St. Fillans. In that battle the Neishes had been all but wiped out, and the remnant of them, retiring to the only island in Lochearn, took to a life of plunder, and secured themselves from reprisals by allowing no boats but their own on the loch. After a time, however, encouraged by immunity, they went so far as to plunder the messenger of MacNab himself, as he returned on one occasion from Crieff with the Chief's Christmas fare. On news of the affront reaching Kinnell, MacNab became red with wrath. Striding into the room where his twelve sons sat, he told them of what had occurred, and ended his harangue with the significant hint, "The night is the night, if the lads were the lads." At that, it is said, the twelve got up, filed out, and, headed by Smooth John, so called because he was the biggest and brawniest of the household, proceeded to vindicate the honour of their name. Taking a boat from Loch Tay, they carried it in relays across the hills and launched it on Loch Earn. When they reached the island fastness of their enemies in the middle of the night, all were asleep but old Neish himself, who called out in alarm to know who was there. "Whom do you least wish to see?" was the answer, to which he replied, "There is no one I would fear if it were not Smooth John MacNab." "And Smooth John it is," returned that brawny individual, as he drove in the door. Next morning, as the twelve young men filed into their father's presence at Kinnell, Smooth John set the head of the Neish Chief on the table with the words, "The night was the night, and the lads were the lads." At that, it is said, old MacNab looked up and answered only "Dread nought!" And from that hour the Neish's head has remained the cognisance and "Dread nought" the motto of the MacNab Clan. A number of years ago, as if to corroborate the details of this narrative, the fragments of a boat were found far up on the hills between Loch Tay and Loch Earn, where it may be supposed Smooth John and his brothers had grown tired of carrying it, and abandoned their craft.

Many other warlike incidents are narrated of the clan. It has been claimed that the race were originally MacDonalds; but from its location and other facts it seems now to be admitted that the clan was a branch of the Siol Alpin, of which the MacGregors were the main stem. From the earliest time the chiefs possessed extensive lands in the lower part of Glendochart, at the western end of Loch Tay. A son of the chief who flourished during the reign of David I.

in the twelfth century, was abbot or prior of Glendochart, and from him the race took its subsequent name of Mac an Abba, or MacNab, "the son of the abbot." At the beginning of the fourteenth century, however, the MacNab Chief took part with his powerful neighbour, the Lord of Lorne, on the side of the Baliols and Comyns, and against King Robert the Bruce. The king's historian, John Barbour, records that Bruce's brother-in-law, Sir Christopher Seton, was betrayed to the English and a fearful death by his confidant and familiar friend MacNab, and it is said the MacNabs particularly distinguished themselves in the famous fight at Dal Righ, near Tyndrum, at the western end of Glendochart, in which John of Lorne nearly succeeded in cutting off and capturing Bruce himself. For this they came under Bruce's extreme displeasure, with the result that they lost a large part of their possessions. The principal messuage of the lands which remained to them was known as the Bowlain, and for this the chief received a crown charter from David II. in 1336. This charter was renewed with additions in 1486, 1502, and at other dates.

Already, however, in the fifteenth century, the MacNabs had begun to suffer from the schemes and encroachments of the great house of Campbell, which was then extending its possessions in all directions from its original stronghold of Inch Connell amid the waters of Loch Awe. Among other enterprises the MacNabs were instigated by Campbell of Loch Awe to attack their own kinsman, the MacGregors. The upshot was a stiff fight near Crianlarich, in which the MacNabs were almost exterminated. After the fight, when both clans were considerably weakened, the Knight of Lochow proceeded to vindicate the law upon both of them, not without considerable advantage to himself.

In 1645, when the Marquess of Montrose raised the standard of Charles I. in Scotland, he was joined by the Chief of MacNab, who, with his clansmen, fought bravely in Montrose's crowning victory at Kilsyth. He was then appointed to garrison Montrose's own castle of Kincardine, near Auchterarder in Strathearn. The stronghold, however, was besieged presently by a Covenanting force under General Leslie, and MacNab found that it would be impossible to maintain the defence. Accordingly, in the middle of the night, he sallied forth, sword in hand, at the head of his three hundred clansmen, when all managed to cut their way through the besieging force, except the Chief himself and one follower. These were made captive and sent to Edinburgh, where MacNab, though a prisoner of war, was accorded at the hands of Covenanters the same



KINNELL HOUSE, NEAR KILLIN, ANCIENT SEAT OF THE MACNAB CHIEF





treatment as they meted out at Newark Castle and elsewhere to the other adherents of Montrose, who had been captured at the battle of Philiphaugh. MacNab was condemned to death, but on the night before his execution he contrived to escape, and afterwards, joining the young King Charles II., he followed him into England, and fell at the battle of Worcester in 1651.

Meanwhile his house had been burnt, his charters destroyed, and his property given to Campbell of Glenurchy, kinsman of the Marquess of Argyll, then at the head of the Covenanting party and the Government of Scotland. So reduced was the state of the house that MacNab's widow was forced to apply for relief to General Monk, Cromwell's plenipotentiary in Scotland. That General ordered Glenurchy, one of whose chief strongholds was Finlarig Castle, close to Kinnell on Loch Tay side, to restore the MacNab possessions to the widow and her son. The order, however, had little effect, and after the Restoration only a portion of the ancient lands were restored to them by the Scottish Parliament.

These lands might still have belonged to the MacNabs but for the extraordinary character and exuberant hospitality of Francis, the twelfth Chief, already referred to. Two more stories of this redoubtable personage may be repeated. He was deputed on one occasion to go to Edinburgh to secure from the military authorities clothing and accoutrements for the Breadalbane Fencibles, then being raised. The General in Command ventured to express some doubt as to the existence of the force, and MacNab proceeded to further his case with the high military authority by addressing him again and again as "My little man." MacNab himself, it may be mentioned, was a personage of towering height, and, with his lofty bonnet, belted plaid, and other appurtenances, made a truly formidable figure. The Fencibles being raised, he marched them to Edinburgh, and was much mortified on being stopped by an excise party, who took them for a party of smugglers carrying a quantity of whisky, of whom they had received intimation. MacNab, it is said, indignantly refused to stop, and on the excisemen insisting in the name of His Majesty, the Chief haughtily replied, "I also am on His Majesty's service. Halt! This, my lads, is a serious affair, load—with ball." At this, it is said, the officers perceived the sort of personage they had to do with, and prudently gave up their attempt.

By reason of the burdens accumulated on the estate by the twelfth Chief the greater part of the possessions of the family passed into the hands of the House of Breadalbane.

Then the last Chief who had his home at Kinnell betook himself to Canada. At a later day he returned and sold the last of his possessions in this country, the Dreadnought Hotel in Callander. When he died he bequeathed all his heirlooms to Sir Allan MacNab, Bart., Prime Minister of Canada, whom he considered the next Chief. But Sir Allan's son was killed by a gun accident when shooting in the Dominion, and since then the chiefship has been claimed by more than one person. Sir Allan MacNab's second daughter, Sophia Mary, married the seventh Earl of Albemarle.

The chief memorial of the old MacNab family in Glendochart to-day is their romantic burying-place among the trees on the rocky islet of Inch Buidhe in the Dochart, a little way above Kinnell. There, with the Dochart in its rocky bed singing its great old song for ever around their dust, rest in peace the once fierce beating hearts of these old descendants of the Abbot of Glendochart and the royal race of Alpin.

## SEPTS OF CLAN MACNAB

Abbotson  
Dewar  
Macandoeir

Abbot  
Gilfillan





MAC NAUGHTON



## CLAN MACNAUGHTON

BADGE : Lusan Albanach (azalea procumbeus) trailing azalea.

SLOGAN : Fraoch Eilean.

THROUGHOUT the legend-haunted Highlands, where every island, glen, and hillside has its strange and tender story of the past, no district is more crowded with old romance than that of Loch Awe. Here lay the heart of the old Oire Gaidheal, or Argyll—the Land of the Gael—head-quarters of the Scots after their early settlement in this country in the days of St. Columba. Even at that time the islands and shores of Loch Awe seem to have been a region of old wonder and story, and from then till now traditions have gathered about these lovely shores, till the unforgotten deeds of clansmen long since dust would make a book of which one should never tire of turning the pages.

The origin of the loch itself is the subject of a legend which must have been told to wondering ears a thousand times in the most dim and misty past. According to that legend the bed of the loch was once a fair and fertile valley, with sheilings and cattle and cornfields, where the reapers sang at harvest time. It had always upon it, however, the fear of the day of fate. High on the side of Ben Cruachan, that mightier Eildon of the Highlands, with its strange triple summit, was a fairy spring which must always be kept covered. For generations this was jealously done, but as time went on and no trouble came, the folk grew less careful. At last one day a girl who went to draw water forgot to replace the cover on the spring. All night the water flowed and swelled in a silver flood, and when morning broke, in place of the fertile valley, a far-reaching loch, studded with islands like green and purple jewels, stretched away through the winding valleys of the hills.

Each of the islands, again, has its own tradition more or less strange or romantic. Of these tales one of the earliest is that of Inis Fraoch. In English to-day the name is taken to mean the Heather Isle, but another origin is given to it in one of the early songs of Ossian, to be found in old Gaelic manuscript and tradition. According to this legend there grew on the island a tree, the apples of which possessed the virtue of conferring immortal youth. This tree and



its fruit were jealously guarded by a fierce dragon. The hero, Fraoch, loved and was loved by the fair Gealchean, and all would have gone well had not the girl's mother, Mai, also become enamoured of the youth. Mai herself had once been a lovely woman, but the years had robbed her of her charms, and, moved by her passion, she became consumed with a desire to have these restored. She had heard of the apples of immortal youth which grew on Inis Fraoch, but the fear of the dragon which guarded them prevented her trying their efficacy. Driven at last to desperation, she induced Fraoch himself to go to the island and bring her the fruit. Fraoch set out, while Mai gave herself up to dreams of the effect which her restored charms would have upon him. As he secured the apples he was attacked by the dragon, and a terrible combat took place. In the end the beast was slain, but in the encounter Fraoch also received a wound, and the eager Mai had only received the fruit from his hand when she had the mortification to see him expire at her feet.

At a later day Inis Fraoch became the stronghold of the MacNaughton chiefs. According to the Gaelic manuscript of 1450, so much relied upon by Skene in his *Highlanders of Scotland*, the clan was already, in the days of David I., a powerful tribe in the north, in the district of Moray. The name is said to be identical with the Pictish Nectan, and a shadowy trace of its importance in an earlier time is to be found in the names of Dunecht and Nectansmere in Fife, the latter famous for the great victory of the Picts in the year 685 over the invading forces of Ecgrith the Northumbrian king, from which only a solitary fugitive escaped. Thirty-two years later, Nectan, son of Deriloi, was, according to Bede and Tighernac, the Pictish king who built Abernethy with its round tower on the lower Earn, and made it the capital of the Pictish Church. According to tradition, however, the clan took its name from Nachtan, a hero of the time of Malcolm IV., in the middle of the twelfth century.

In keeping with the tradition of their Pictish origin, the chiefs are said to have been for ages Thanes of Loch Tay. Afterwards they are said to have possessed all the country between Loch Fyne and Loch Awe, and in 1267 King Alexander III. appointed Gilchrist MacNaughton hereditary keeper of the island and castle of Inis Fraoch on condition that when the king passed that way he should be suitably entertained by the MacNaughton chief. At the time of the wars of Bruce, Donald, chief of the MacNaughtons, being closely related to the great MacDougal Lords

of Lorne, at first took their side against the king. At the battle in the pass of Dalrigh, however, as described in Barbour's *Bruce*, MacNaughton, who was with the Lord of Lorne, was a witness of the king's prowess in ridding himself of the three brothers who attacked him all at once as he defended the rear of his little army retreating through a narrow pass. The MacNaughton chief expressed his admiration of Bruce's achievement, and was sharply taken to task by the Lord of Lorne :

" It seems it likes thee, perfoy,  
That he slays yon gate our mengye ! "

From that time MacNaughton took the side of the king, and in the days of David II., Bruce's son, the next chief, Duncan, was a strong supporter of the Scottish Royal house. As a reward for the support of the clan, David II. conferred on the next chief, Alastair MacNaughton, all the forfeited lands of John Dornagil, or White Fist, and of John, son of Duncan MacAlastair of the Isles. The MacNaughton chief thus became a great island lord as well as the owner of broad lands in old Argyll.

Another Alastair MacNaughton, who was chief in the time of James IV., was knighted by that king, and led his clan to battle in that great rush of the men of the Highlands and Isles which carried all before it at the beginning of the battle of Flodden. There, however, he himself fell. He was succeeded by two of his sons in turn, John and Malcolm of Glenshira. This Malcolm's second son, another John, was noted for his handsome person. His good looks attracted the attention of James VI., who, while not particularly prepossessing himself, appears to have had a keen appreciation of a good presence in other men, and to have had a penchant for retaining them about his court. In this way the king " who never said a foolish thing and never did a wise one " kept near his person such men as the Bonnie Earl of Moray, Francis, Earl of Bothwell, Esme Stewart, Duke of Lennox, and George Villiers, Duke of Buckingham. For the same reason, on succeeding to the English throne, he made Glenshira's son one of his pages of honour. In this position John MacNaughton became a man of means, and, returning to his native district, purchased a good estate in Kintyre.

The chiefs of MacNaughton were now at the summit of their fortunes. Alexander, Malcolm's eldest son and successor, was a well-known figure at the court of Charles I. In 1627, during the war with France, that king gave him a commission, " With ane sufficient warrant to levie and



transport twa hundrethe bowmen," to take part against the country's enemies. This warrant is curious evidence of the use of an ancient weapon at that late period in the Highlands. The Laird of MacKinnon contributed part of the force, and the two hundred were soon got together and set sail. On the passage, however, they came near to disaster, their transport being twice driven into Falmouth and "Hetlie followit by ane man of warr" of France. The Highlanders happened to be accompanied by their pipers and a harper, and, according to Donald Gregory in the *Archæologia Scotica*, the Frenchman were prevented from attacking by the awe-inspiring sound and sight of the "Bagg-pypperis and marlit plaidis." In the civil wars of Charles I. MacNaughton remained a staunch Royalist, and at the court of Charles II., after the Restoration, as Colonel Macnachtan, he was a great favourite of that king. When he died at last in London, Charles buried him at his own expense in the chapel royal.

John, the next chief, was no less staunch a Royalist. At the Revolution, with a strong force of his clan, he joined James VII.'s general, Viscount Dundee, and is said to have taken a leading part in the overthrow of King William's troops at Killiecrankie in 1689. After the battle, and the death of Dundee, he, with his son Alexander and the other leaders of the little Jacobite army, signed the letter of defiance sent to the commander of King William's forces, General MacKay; and he also entered into a bond with other Jacobite chiefs, by which he undertook to appear with fifty men for the cause of King James, at whatever place and time might be appointed. The result of his Jacobite activities was disaster to his house. In 1691 an Act of Forfeiture was passed by the Scottish Parliament which deprived him of his estates.

The wife of this chief was a sister of that crafty schemer, Sir John Campbell, fifth baronet of Glenurchie, who became, first, Earl of Caithness and afterwards Earl of Breadalbane and Holland; and his son Alexander, already referred to, became a captain in Queen Anne's Lifeguards. He might have restored the family fortunes, but was killed in the expedition to Vigo in 1702. The chiefship then passed to his brother John, but the latter also died without heirs of his body, and the chiefship became extinct.

Both Charles II. and James VII. had intended to confer substantial honours on the MacNaughton chiefs, the former with a charter of the hereditary sheriffship of Argyll, and the latter with a commission as steward and hereditary bailie of all the lands which he and his ancestors had ever



possessed; but in the former case the patent, by reason of some court intrigue, never passed the seals, and in the second case, though the deed was signed by the king and counter-signed by the Earl of Perth, its purpose was defeated by the outbreak of the Revolution.

In 1747, in the report made by Lord President Forbes on the strength of the Highland chiefs, the MacNaughtons appear as a broken clan, being classed with several others who inhabited the district. Like the MacArthurs, MacAlisters, MacGregors, MacNabs, and Fletchers, who had formerly flourished on the shores of Loch Awe, they had no longer a chief to lead them and further their interests, and the broad MacNaughton lands had passed for the most part into the hands of their shrewd neighbours, the Campbells. Memorials only of their ancient greatness are to be seen in the ruined stronghold of Inis Fraoch in Loch Awe, of Dunderaw, now restored, on the shore of Loch Fyne, of MacNachtan Castle in the Lews, and others—in particular, belonging to a still earlier day, that of Dunnachton in Strathspey.

## SEPTS OF CLAN MACNAUGHTON

Kendrick  
Maceol  
MacHendry  
MacKenrick  
MacNair  
MacNiven  
MacNuyer  
Niven

Hendry  
MacBrayne  
MacKendrick  
Macknight  
MacNayer  
MacNuir  
MacVicar  
Weir

## CLAN MACNICOL

OF the ancient races of the West and North which have been dignified with the title of the Great Clans, only one may be said to have fallen entirely to pieces in the course of time. The fact speaks volumes for the vitality of these warrior tribes, and the healthiness of the seemingly hard conditions amid which they lived and struggled. The conclusions of Skene in his *Highlanders of Scotland* have not always been approved by later writers, but it is worth noting that he identifies Clan Nicol with the Kairinoi of the early geographer Ptolemy. Skene identifies the Ness district of the Norwegian sagas with the region in the north-west of Scotland now known as Edyrachillis, Duirinish, and Assynt, and he declares that "the most ancient Gaelic clan which can be traced as inhabiting these districts is the clan Nicail or MacNicol." In the article on "Assynt" in the *Statistical Account of Scotland*, the Rev. William Mackenzie records that "Tradition and even documents declare that it was a forest of the ancient Thanes of Sutherland. One of these Prince Thanes gave it in vassalage to one Macrycul, who in ancient times held the coast of Coygeach, that part of it at the place presently called Ullapool. The noble Thane made Assynt over in the above manner, as Mackrycul had recovered a great quantity of cattle carried off from the county of Sutherland by foreign invaders." Mackenzie adds in a note, "Mackrycul is reputed by the people here to be the potent man of whom are descended the Macnicols; Nicols, and Nicolson." According to the Gaelic genealogical manuscript of 1450, on which Skene founds so much of his writing regarding the clans, this account is probably correct, for in that manuscript the descent of the Clan Nicail is traced in a direct line from a certain Gregall, who is obviously the Krycul of the tradition. Further, as the letters *r* and *n* are interchangeable in Gaelic, it can easily be seen how Macrycul became MacNicail or MacNicol, of which the English translation is of course Nicolson. The recovery of the great herd of Sutherland cattle from Norwegian invaders is believed to have been accomplished by Macrycul or MacNicol of Coygeach some time in the



MAC NICOL





twelfth century. To accomplish such a feat he must have been at the head of a considerable army or clan, so the probability is that the race of Krycul or Gregall had been chiefs at Ullapool for a long period before that. This would take their ancestry back to the days of Malcolm Canmore at least.

About the time of the battle of Bannockburn the line of the MacNicol chiefs ended in an heiress who married Torquil, a younger son of MacLeod of the Lewis, and the pair obtained a Crown charter of the lands of Assynt and others which had been the MacNicol property. From this marriage descended fourteen successive MacLeod lairds of Assynt. It was one of these MacLeods of Assynt who in 1650 earned the execration of the Highlanders by handing over the Great Marquess of Montrose to the Covenanted Government at whose head was his implacable enemy, the crafty Marquess of Argyll. MacLeod was then in money difficulties, which perhaps explained his willingness to earn the Government reward. Ten years later his chief creditor, the Earl of Seaforth, foreclosed his wadsets and took possession of the Assynt estates. Still later Assynt was purchased by the Sutherland family. The more northern part of the old MacNicol country remained in other hands till MacLeod of Edyrachillis and Morison of Duirinish took occasion to engage in a feud, whereupon their neighbours the MacKays, then at the height of their power, stepped in and wrested these estates from both families, and from that time Edyrachillis and Duirinish became parts of the Lord Reay's country.

Meanwhile, on the death of the last MacNicol of Coygeach, Assynt, Edyrachillis, and Duirinish, the chiefship of the clan had by patriarchal law, passed to the nearest male of the race, and the seat of this line was afterwards removed to Scoirebreac, a beautiful spot on the coast of Skye near Portree. Here they appear to have shown their piety, prevision, or ostentation by benefactions to the religious house, of which the ruins may yet be seen on an island at the head of Loch Snizort. A small chapel on the south side of the main buildings is still known as MacNicol's Aisle, and within it is to be seen the effigy of a warrior in conical helmet and long quilted coat or habergeon, who must have been a man of much power in his time.

Of one of these chiefs of Scoirebreac a tradition is recorded which furnishes a curious illustration of the ancient ideas of clan honour and the rules of blood

vengeance. The chief concerned, known as MacNicol Mor, from his great size, was one day engaged in a warm discussion with MacLeod of Raasay, his neighbour across the sound. At the height of the debate MacLeod's servant came into the room. The two were talking in English, so the man did not know the meaning of what was said, but under the impression that a serious quarrel was on foot, he drew his sword and dealt MacNicol a blow from which he died. To decide how the deed should be avenged and a feud between the two families avoided, a meeting of chiefs and elders was at once called. These men of wisdom decided that as the MacNicol chief had been slain by the hand of a menial MacLeod, the Laird of Raasay should be beheaded by the meanest of MacNicol's clansmen. The humblest of the latter was found to be one Lomach, a maker of horse panniers, and by him Raasay was duly put to death. The execution took place near Snizort. At the fatal moment the victim was in the act of speaking, and so deftly did Lomach take off his head that as it rolled down the hill the onlookers distinctly heard the sounds "ip ip" from its lips. From this circumstance the little mount was afterwards known as Cnoc an h-ip. It is satisfactory to know that the sacrifice of the Laird of Raasay prevented all further shedding of blood between the MacLeods and the MacNicol's.

Stories of the MacNicol's of Scoirebreac come down to the beginning of the nineteenth century. About that time, according to the author of the letterpress in M'Ian's *Clans of the Scottish Highlands*, at a banquet of the clansmen given to celebrate some joyful occasion, there was a call for the bards to come to the upper end of the room. Convinced of the hopelessness of the summons MacNicol of Scoirebreac exclaimed, "The bards are extinct!" He was promptly taken to task by one of the company, Alastair bui' Mac Ivor, who retorted, "No, they are not extinct, but those who delighted to patronise them are gone."

While the seat of the MacNicol chiefs was in Skye there were many of the name scattered throughout the county of Argyll, and of these there were several individuals whose characteristics or exploits have been perpetuated in tradition. One of them, reputed to be a seer, obtained the name of Gualan Crostadh from his rule never to look behind him. For the same reason he was also known as "an Teallsanach" or the Philosopher. As might be expected of such a personage, a crop of stories was long extant regarding him. Another of the



clan, Gillespie MacNicol, attained fame by a rescue he effected at somewhat serious cost to himself. After the last Jacobite rising a widow's son had fallen into the hands of the "red soldiers," as Government troops were called, and they were carrying him off, when the redoubtable Gillespie came to the rescue. Attacking the soldiers, he slew one or two, put the others to flight, and set the captive free. Unluckily, as he did so, he received a swordstroke in the face which carried off his nose.

Strangely enough, notwithstanding the evident importance of the MacNicol's in their early days, the clan seems never to have had a tartan. After the beginning of the fourteenth century, when the heiress of the early line of chiefs married a MacLeod, they seem to have merged in the following of that clan, and probably they adopted the MacLeod tartan.

Among members of the clan who have attained more than local repute was the Rev. Donald MacNicol, whose best known work was his defence of the Highlands against the accusations made by Dr. Samuel Johnson in his *Journey to the Hebrides*. Of the same period also were the Rev. Francis Nicoll, D.D., Principal of St. Leonard's and St. Salvator's Colleges, St. Andrews, and Robert Nicoll, the poet who became editor of the *Leeds Times* in 1836. Still later were the Nichols, father and son, professors, one of astronomy and the other of English literature at Glasgow University. There was also Alexander Nicolson, the Gaelic scholar who died Sheriff-Substitute of Greenock in 1893. He is chiefly remembered by his revision of the Gaelic Bible and his collection of Gaelic proverbs. One of the ablest journalists of recent times, too, was Sir William Robertson Nicol, founder of *The British Weekly* and "discoverer" of Sir J. M. Barrie and other well-known writers.

It should be noted that the lowland name Nicholson, once represented by the Nicholsons of Carnock, a family now merged, with the Shaws of Greenock, in that of the Stewarts of Blackhall and Ardgowan, are not of the MacNicol clan. Their name, like that of the English Nicholls, is derived from the original form Nicholas.

## CLAN MACNIEL

**BADGE :** Luibheann (Octopetala) Dryas; or Feamainn Algæ.

**SLOGAN :** Biolacreag.

**PIBROCH :** Spaidsearachd Mhic Nèill Bharra.

ONE of the most interesting places in the Outer Hebrides at which the steamer puts in is Castle Bay in Barra. As one of the safest harbours in the Minch this has, in recent years, become a great fishing port. The island ordinarily has a population of about 2,000, but during the herring season this is increased several times over. The "land" is nothing to speak of, for it consists mainly of absolutely bare rocks worn by the Atlantic storms of thousands of years. The houses of the old crofters and clansmen of former days, which may still be seen, are almost as primitive, being little more than oblong enclosures of great stones piled together, their interstices merely filled with peat, and their thatch roofs tied down with cords and old fishing nets. They have the smallest of windows, and, for a chimney, merely a hole to let the smoke out. Probably the crofters always obtained their livelihood chiefly from the harvest of the sea. In time of scarcity, indeed, it is said they were able to subsist altogether on the cockles which they obtained in hundreds of horse-loads at a time from the sands of one famous beach. But of late years, since the coming of the railway to Oban and Mallaig, with a fleet of steamers in connection, to buy up the fish and carry them swiftly to market, the profits of this harvest have been vastly increased, and the results are to be seen in the well-built stone cottages which have sprung up, and the general air of business and prosperity which fills the place. While heaps of herring barrels are piled on the shore, the bay is full of fishing craft delivering their catch of the previous night, and there are great sheds full of active and happy women, cleaning, salting, and packing the fish, to be shipped by and by on the waiting steamers for transport to the great centres of industry.

In the midst of all this bustle and business appears, strangely enough, the silent and significant monument of an older time. Ciosmal, or Kismul Castle, on an island in the bay, with its great square walls and scarcely broken



MAC NIEL





battlements, speaks of a time when the island lords and chiefs of clans held their own in these outer isles, and defied the power even of the king of Scotland himself to enforce the law of the realm. The stronghold is stated to have been an arsenal of the Norsemen during their dominion in the Isles.

Kismul Castle was the seat of the MacNiels of Barra, chief of one of the most ancient of the island clans, and also one of the proudest and most independent. In his *Account of the Western Highlands*, written early in the eighteenth century, Martin describes a visit here, and his failure to gain admission to this jealously guarded stronghold. "There is," he says, "a stone wall round it two storeys high, reaching the sea, and within the wall there is an old tower and a hall, with other houses about it. There is a little magazine in the tower, to which no stranger has access. . . ." The tower was kept by a gocman, or warder, who paced the battlements night and day, and, without the express sanction of MacNiel himself, would admit no one within the walls. Martin asked to be ferried over to the stronghold, and was referred to the constable of the castle. He accordingly sent a request to that authority, but though he waited for some hours he received no reply, and was forced to come away without gaining access to the place. He learned afterwards that MacNiel happened to be from home, and that the constable and gocman could not admit a stranger on their own responsibility. Though the proud old castle is now inhabited only by ravens and hoodie crows, with perhaps an otter or two which take their living, like the clansmen themselves, from the shoals of fish in the waters around, it is still a stern and stately old place, strikingly suggestive of the bold and fierce life of its masters of other days.

The antiquity of the race of MacNiel is undoubted. It is indicated in the jocular tradition that the chief of the clan, on the occasion of the great flood of the Biblical narrative, refused Noah's offer of hospitality, saying that "the MacNiel had a boat of his own!" The name Niel, or Nial as it was originally spelt, is at any rate one of the oldest Celtic personal names, and the clan which owns it to-day may possibly bear some relationship to the Hy Nial, or ancient royal race of Ireland. The first of the Scottish race whose name appears in a charter is Nial Og, or the younger. The charter is of the reign of Robert the Bruce. The clan was at that time located in the Knapdale district of Argyllshire, and the chiefs were hereditary constables of the castle on Loch Swin. Along with their possessions

in Knapdale, the MacNiel chiefs probably owned at that time, and for centuries before, the island of Gigha, three and a half miles off the Kintyre coast. Here, at any rate, is the ancient burying place of the MacNiels. According to Martin, already quoted, "most of all the tombs have a two-handed sword engraven on them, and there is one that has the representation of a man upon it." It was in Gigha that in 1263 John of the Isles met Haco, the Norwegian king, on his way to the battle of Largs, and refused to join him and renounce allegiance to Alexander III. MacNiel was possibly the host on that historic occasion. In any case he would almost certainly be present at the meeting, which was to have such far-reaching consequences.

The son of MacNiel of Bruce's time was Murchadh or Murdoch, and his son again was Ruari or Roderick. By a charter of the time of James I., dated 1427, Ruari's son Gilleonan was settled in Barra. The charter conveyed to him also the lands of Boisdale in Uist, but on his attempting to take possession of that property he was opposed by Ian Garbh MacLean of Coll, who asserted a previous right. In the struggle which followed Gilleonan was slain. His son, however, another Gilleonan, on 12th August, 1495, obtained another charter, confirming him *de novo* in all his possessions, and for centuries the clachan clustering round the head of the Castle Bay was known as Baile Mhicneill, or Macneil-town. The son of this chief, still another Gilleonan, played an active part in the rebellious activities of his feudal superior, the Lord of the Isles, which activities ended in the death of John, fourth and last Lord of the Isles, as a landless and impoverished wanderer in the purlieu of Dundee, in 1498.

Though the MacNiels of Barra have invariably been declared by tradition to be the chiefs of the clan, the MacNiels of Gigha were, from an early time, owing to the distance and the stormy seas separating Gigha and Barra, forced to fend for themselves, and the Gigha family made a claim to independent chiefship. In 1493 Malcolm MacNiel of Gigha, the head of that house, was a personage of much importance in the West Highlands.

Like the other supporters of the rebellious Lords of the Isles, the MacNiel chiefs were the subject of many attempts at suppression and control by the Stewart kings, but, secure in their far western fastnesses, they laughed at the royal summonses and flouted the royal commands to attend trial, and accordingly the Parliamentary records of that time again and again contain the note "MacNele





KISMUL CASTLE, CASTLE BAY, BARRA, ANCIENT STRONGHOLD OF THE MACNIEL CHIEFS



saepe vocatus sed non comparet." For a century after the downfall of the last Lord of the Isles the MacNiels of Barra continued this haughty demeanour. Upon the forfeiture of John of the Isles they had become holders direct of the crown, but this seems to have made no difference in their habit of disregarding the royal mandate. As an instance of their pride the tradition may be recalled that when the Laird of Barra had dined, a herald used to sound a horn from the battlements and make proclamation: "Hear, O ye people, and listen, O ye nations! The great MacNiel of Barra having finished his meal, the princes of the earth may dine!"

Roderick MacNiel of Barra, chief of the clan in the reign of James VI., was so well known for this characteristic as to be named "Rory the Turbulent." He went so far, at last, as to seize an English ship on his island coast. News of this act being conveyed to the English court, Queen Elizabeth complained to the Scottish king of the act of piracy. Accordingly MacNiel was summoned to Edinburgh to answer for his act. This summons he treated with contempt, and several efforts made to apprehend him proved ignominiously unsuccessful. At last, however, MacKenzie, the tutor of Kintail, undertook to effect his arrest. His plan was to use stratagem where force had failed. Accordingly he came ostensibly on a friendly visit to Kismul Castle. In the interchange of hospitalities he invited MacNiel and his retainers on board his ship. There they were treated so well, especially with strong waters, that presently they were all reduced to helplessness. The retainers were then put on shore, and the vessel hoisted sail under cover of night, and was soon far beyond reach, with the unconscious MacNiel on board. The chief was carried to Edinburgh, and immediately put upon his trial. He confessed to the seizure of the English ship, but declared that he had thought himself bound, as a loyal subject, to avenge the injury done by the Queen of England to the king's mother and to James himself. This answer secured his life, but his estate was forfeited and given to Kintail. The latter then restored it to MacNiel, on condition that he should hold it of him, and pay sixty merks Scots as a yearly feu duty. Some time afterwards, on the marriage of a daughter of Kintail to Sir James MacDonald of Sleat, the superiority of Barra was conveyed to MacDonald as part of the lady's dowry.

Rory the Turbulent died as he had lived, though the final act of his life was as conspicuous for its loyalty as



his earlier behaviour had been for contempt of the royal commands. When the young Earl of Argyll was commissioned by James VI. to proceed against the Catholic lords, Angus, Errol, and Huntly, MacNiel joined the royal army with his clan, and at the battle of Glenlivet, in which Argyll was so signally defeated, he is said to have displayed prodigies of valour before he fell at the head of his followers.

The MacNiels of Barra intermarried with the families of Clan Ranald, MacLeod, Cameron, Duart, and others of chief consequence in the West and the Isles. In the earlier part of the nineteenth century the chief of the clan, Lieut.-Colonel MacNiel, who was a Deputy Lieutenant of Inverness-shire, was one of the most enterprising of the island landlords, introducing manufactures, promoting agriculture, and improving the native breed of cattle. He abandoned Kismul Castle as a residence and built the mansion of Eoligearry at the north end of the island. He was an extremely handsome man, adored by his people, who ruined themselves to save him from ruin. In 1840, however, he sold Barra to Colonel Gordon of Cluny for £38,050, and so severed the connection of his family with the island which had existed for more than four hundred years. The present head of the house of the Barra family is the forty-fifth chief. He is a Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland and has his home in the United States of America. In April, 1918, he received from the United States Government the appointment of Assistant to the Bureau of Imports, War Trade Board.

Thus far have we travelled from the old days when the gowman challenged from the battlement of Kismul Castle, and MacNiel from his island fastness defied the mandates even of the Scottish kings. The fame of the ancient island chiefs is likely to remain in memory, however, as long as the music and song of the Isles are remembered, for one of the most beautiful of the Hebridean songs lately collected and given to the world by Mrs. Kennedy-Fraser, is that known as "Kismul's Galley."

#### SEPTS OF CLAN MACNIEL

MacNeilage  
MacNelly

Neal  
Neill



MAC PHEE





## CLAN MACPHEE OR DUFFIE

BADGE : *Giuthas (pinus sylvestris) pine.*

THE Siol Alpin, descended from the early Scottish king of that name, and comprising the MacGregors, Grants, Mackinnons, MacQuarries, MacNabs, and MacAulays, have always prided themselves upon being the most ancient and noble of the Scottish clans. In the well-known Gaelic MS. of 1450, Clan Dhubhie is shown to be of the same descent. The prefix "dhu" in their name indicates that they were of a dark race, which corroborates their Celtic origin, in contrast with the fair-haired Norwegians who for so many centuries colonised and dominated the Western Isles. Though the 1450 MS. details their genealogy, little is known of their early history, except that they were the most ancient inhabitants of the island of Colonsay. With that island Oronsay is connected at low water, the two together making a pleasant domain some ten miles long by one to three miles broad. Here St. Columba and his companion St. Oran landed first on their way from Ireland in the year 563, and gave their names to the islands. Here, in consequence, a monastery of Canons Regular of St. Augustine was founded at a later day, and colonised with monks from Holyrood. The priory, which still stands on Oronsay, is, next to Iona, esteemed the finest relic of religious antiquity in the Hebrides. Martin, in his tour in the Hebrides in 1703, describing it, says: "On the south side of the church within, lie the tombs of Mac-Duffie and of the cadets of his family: there is a ship under sail and a two-handed sword engraven on the principal tombstone, and this inscription 'Hic jacet Malcolumbus Mac-Duffie de Colonsay': his coat of arms and colour-staff is fixed in a stone, through which a hole is made to hold it. . . . About a quarter of a mile on the south side of the church there is a cairn, in which there is a stone cross fixed, called Mac-Duffie's Cross, for when any of the heads of this family were to be interred, their corpses were laid on this cross for some moments on their way toward the church.'"<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> In most accounts the location of this tombstone and cross is erroneously stated to be Iona.

The Malcolm MacDuffie of Colonsay thus commemorated corresponds with a chief of this name who appears in the 1450 MS., at the period to which experts assign the carving of the stone. The "ship under sail" of the description is the galley or lymphad which was the insignia of an Island chief.

Martin also says, "There is an altar in this church and there has been a modern crucifix on it, in which several precious stones were fixed. The most valuable of these is now in the custody of Mac-Duffie in Black Raimused village, and it is used as a catholicon for diseases."

Monro, Dean of the Isles, in his description of Colonsay, says the island "was the property of ane gentle Captain called Mac Phie, but pertained of auld to clan Donald of Kintire." This writer seems, however, to have put the cart before the horse. The MacPhees came before the Macdonalds as owners of the island. In early times, as was natural on account of their geographical situation, the Chiefs of Colonsay appear to have been supporters of the Macdonald Lords of the Isles. According to the Register of the Great Seal (VI., 17), on 12th April, 1463, Donald MacDuffie appears as witness to a charter by John Earl of Ross and Lord of the Isles, executed at the Earl's castle at Dingwall. In the time of the Lords of the Isles MacPhee of Colonsay is said to have kept the records of the Isles. After the forfeiture of the last Macdonald Lord of the Isles in 1493, the MacDuffie chiefs appear to have attached themselves to the Macdonalds of Islay. In 1531, there is mention of a certain MacDuffie chief, who bore the name of Murroch, or Murdoch.

In the beginning of the seventeenth century the Lairds of Colonsay were probably at the height of their consequence. In 1609, Donald MacPhee of Colonsay was one of the twelve chiefs and gentlemen who met the Bishop of the Isles, representing the King, and at Iona gave assent to the nine celebrated "Statutes of Icolmkill." Shortly afterwards, however, the fortunes of the family seem to have taken an unhappy turn. In 1615, on the escape of Sir James Macdonald of Islay from Edinburgh Castle, he was joined by Malcolm MacPhee of Colonsay, and in the troublous times which followed, the latter was one of the chief leaders of disturbance. The business ended tragically. Along with eighteen others he was delivered up to the Earl of Argyll by Coll MacGillespie Macdonald, well known afterwards in the wars of Montrose as "Colkitto," being Ciotach or left-handed. By Argyll he was brought before the Privy Council. In the end he came to his



death by violence. In the Council Records for 1623 appears an entry detailing an accusation against Colkitto of being "airt and pairt guilty of the felonie and cruell slaughter of umquhill Malcolm Macphie of Collonsay."

From that time the estates of the Chiefs appear to have passed into possession of the Macdonalds, and at a later day they became a patrimony of the Macneils, while the MacPhees became a "broken" clan, and their numbers formed only a small proportion of the inhabitants of Colonsay.

A branch of the clan then settled in Lochaber and attached itself to the Camerons, by whom it was much esteemed for its bravery. At the battle of Culloden, when the Camerons made the furious onset which nearly annihilated the Duke of Cumberland's left wing, the MacPhees furnished part of their strength, and suffered proportionately. The story is told of one of them, engaged in the attempt to prevent the dragoons getting through the wall which protected the right flank of the Highland army, that he cut down a horse and its rider, but, failing to clear himself in time, received a kick from the animal which broke his spine. He was carried from the field next day and lived long afterwards, but went through life to the last bent to the ground and hobbling on a stick.

As late as the middle of the nineteenth century the traditions of the clan were revived by a deserter from the army, named Ewen MacPhee. This individual with his wife and family took possession of an island in Loch Oich in the Great Glen, and set up as an outlaw, paying no rent, prepared to defend himself with a loaded rifle, and supporting himself by means of a herd of goats and such game and fish as he managed to secure. Still more lawless was the career of Edward Duffy, the Fenian leader in Connaught who was sentenced to fifteen year's penal servitude in 1867.

More creditable to the clan was the career of Robert Andrew Macfie, M.P. for Leith Burghs, from 1868 to 1874, who was notable as an advocate of free trade, helped to found Liverpool Chamber of Commerce, and published several works dealing with patents, copyright, and political questions.

#### SEPTS OF CLAN DUFFIE OR MACPHEE

Duffie  
MacGuiffie

Duffy  
Machaffie

## CLAN MACPHERSON

**BADGE :** Lus nam braoileag (*vaccinium vitis idæa*) red whortleberry.

**SLOGAN :** Creag dhu!

**PIBROCH :** Creag Dhubh Chlann Chatain.

GREAT has been the discussion, since ever an interest came to be taken in these things, regarding the origin of the famous Clan Chattan. Eager to derive the clan from an antiquity as remote as possible, its historians have claimed that it represents the early Catti of Gaul mentioned by Tacitus. They aver that this tribe, driven from its native lands by the Romans, settled in the remote north of Scotland, to which it gave the name of Cattiness or Caithness. Fantastic stories are told also of early settlers who took possession of a district in the north formerly infested by dangerous numbers of wild cats, which the new settlers destroyed. Another derivation of the name is from *cat* or *catti*, a weapon, and still another from Catav—Gaelic, *cad*, high, and *tobh*, a side, the high land of the Ord of Caithness. But the most probable appears to be the theory of tradition which derives the name simply from Gillecattan Mhor, "the big servant of St. Katan," who appears as a fairly authentic personage of the time of Malcolm Canmore, and whose ancestor, according to tradition, was one of the Gaelic settlers who came over from Ireland to Scotland in those early centuries. The elder line, descended from this Gillecattan Mhor, came to an end in the person of an only daughter named Eva, who in 1291 married Angus, the young chief of the Mac-Intoshes. This individual received from his father-in-law not only part of the old Clan Chattan lands of Glenlui and Loch Arkaig, but also, it is said, an investiture as chief of Clan Chattan itself. There was, however, it appears, a younger male line descended from Gillecattan Mhor. The representative of this younger line in the twelfth century was a certain Muirich, priest or parson of the Culdee church at Kingussie. The priests of this church were not bound to celibacy. Indeed one of the reasons for the introduction of the Roman Church at that time was the abuse of the





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office by the Culdee priests, who were accused of alienating the church land in favour of their own families. The Macphersons are said to be descended from Kenneth, son of Ewen Baan, second of the five sons of this Muirich, from whom they take their names of Macmhurich, son of Muirich, or Macpherson, son of the parson. It is through this descent that the Macphersons claim to be chiefs of the old Clan Chattan, declaring that it was not in the power of a Highland chief to transfer the chiefship through a daughter to another family.

The Macphersons are said to have acquired their possessions in Badenoch from King Robert the Bruce as a reward for certain services in expelling the Comyns from that district, but it is also possible that they had retained possession of some of the lands of the old Culdee Church of which their ancestor Muirich had been parson there. They emerge into history as a body of considerable strength in 1370 or 1386. In one or other of these years, the Camerons, who had retained actual possession of the old Clan Chattan lands of Glenlui or Loch Arkaig in despite of the Mackintosh chiefs, had made a raid, four hundred strong, on the Mackintosh lands in Strath Nairn, and were returning home through Badenoch, when they were overtaken by Mackintosh, supported by his relatives, the chiefs of the Macphersons and the Davidsons.

The fact that Mackintosh was in command has been claimed by his clansmen to prove that he was recognised by the Macphersons and Davidsons as Chief of Clan Chattan. But the fact that the personal quarrel was his might sufficiently account for his leadership there, and it is significant that both the Macphersons and the Davidsons found occasion to assert the seniority of their descent on the spot. The question arising as to who should have the place of honour on the right flank, the Macpherson chief claimed it as chief of the old Clan Chattan, and the Davidson chief claimed it as head of the senior cadet branch of that clan. Mackintosh assigned the post to the Davidsons, and as a result the Macphersons straightway withdrew their assistance. In the battle which followed at Invernahavon, Mackintosh, thus weakened, suffered defeat. There is a tradition that he then sent to the Macpherson camp a minstrel who taunted these clansmen with cowardice, and that, enraged in consequence, they flew to arms, attacked the Camerons, and completely routed them.

According to some it was the difference between the different septs of Clan Chattan at Invernahavon which

directly led to the famous fight of the " Threttie against Threttie " before King Robert III. on the North Inch of Perth in 1396. Some assert that the clansmen arrayed against each other in that fight were the Macphersons and the Davidsons, but it seems more likely that the battle really was between the Mackintoshes and the Camerons.

That the Macphersons remained of consequence in Badenoch is shown by entries in the Exchequer Rolls, which refer to supplies received by James II. from Hugh Macpherson at Ruthven in that district in 1459. According to family tradition the chief, Ewen Macpherson, was a staunch supporter of Queen Mary, while his son Andrew Macpherson and his clan certainly took part in the battle of Glenlivet in 1594, after defending the Earl of Huntly's castle of Ruthven successfully against the young Earl of Argyll, commanding the invading forces of King James VI.

During the events which led up to the battle of Glenlivet, and at the battle itself, the chief of the Mackintoshes was ranged with his clan on the side of the Earl of Moray and the King, while Macpherson with his men were on the side of the Earl of Huntly. Andrew Macpherson, the young chief, was at that time only tenant of Cluny, which property then belonged to the Earl of Huntly, and on 16th May, 1591, Huntly had obtained from him and nine of the chief men of his clan a bond securing their support. These circumstances may be taken as illustrative of the rivalry which appears always to have existed between the two great branches of Clan Chattan.

In the civil war of Charles I.'s time the Macphersons played a gallant part on the side of the King. From the register of the provincial synod of Moray it appears that Dougal Macpherson acted as Captain of Ruthven Castle, and that Ewen Macpherson of Cluny had joined with Alastair Macdonald, the Marquess of Huntly, and the Great Marquess of Montrose in their daring military enterprise; that he had been present at the battles of Tibbermuir and Aberdeen, in which he had been in command of all the loyal forces of Badenoch. It was during one of the headlong attacks of this campaign, when the little Royalist forces were about to engage a party of the Covenanting Horse, that an incident occurred which is related effectively by Sir Walter Scott. A gentlemen of Clan Macpherson was noticed to be crouching somewhat in the rear, and Macpherson of Nuid, taking the action to be one of cowardice, ran up to him and indignantly upbraided him with setting so bad an example. The clansman, however,



answered, " I have only been fastening a spur to the heel of my brogue, for I mean in a few minutes to be mounted on one of these horses." And in a few minutes, sure enough, he had fulfilled his intention.

It was shortly after this that the dispute between the heads of the Mackintoshes and Macphersons as to the chiefship of Clan Chattan found its way into a court of law. It was true that in 1609 Andrew Macpherson in Cluny had, with several other Macphersons, subscribed a bond of manrent, undertaking to maintain and defend the Chief of Mackintosh, " as it was of old according to the King of Scotland his gift of chieftainrie of the said Clan Chattan granted thereupon, in the which they are, and is astricted to serve Mackintosh as their captain and chief." But such bonds were common instruments of the feudal centuries for temporary purposes, and did not necessarily mean the admission of a hereditary right. On the opposite side, in 1665, when the Mackintosh chief was preparing an expedition to assert his rights to the lands of Glenlui and Loch Arkaig against the Camerons, he asked the help of the Macphersons, and to prevent their action being construed into an admission that he was their chief, he executed a notarial deed declaring that they did so merely of their own good will and pleasure, and added on his own part, " I bind and oblige myself and friends and followers to assist, fortify, and join with the said Andrew, Lachlan, and John Macpherson, all their lawful and necessary adoos, being thereunto required." The trouble with the Camerons having, however, been settled, Mackintosh proceeded again to assert his chiefship of Clan Chattan, including the Macphersons. Once already the dispute between the rival chiefs had been on the point of an appeal to arms. In 1660 Mackintosh had begun to erect a mill, which was likely to injure one belonging to Macpherson of Cluny lower on the same stream. The fiery cross was sent through the Macpherson country, and Clan Vurich rushed to arms, stimulated by a traditional prophecy that at this time a great battle should be fought between the rival clans. The Mackintoshes and Macphersons faced each other at the site of the proposed mill. There Mackintosh, finding himself inferior in numbers, sent for help, first to the chief of the Grants and afterwards to the chief of the Farquharsons, but both of these chiefs refused to take arms against their neighbour Macpherson. In the end Mackintosh drew off his men, the Macphersons demolished the half-built mill, and its erection was finally abandoned.

In 1672, to end the dispute, Duncan Macpherson of Cluny applied for and obtained from the Lord Lyon the matriculation of arms as "the laird of Cluny Macpherson and the only and true representer of the ancient and honourable family of Clan Chattan." He proceeded, however, to carry the assertion of his rights too far. The Lyon Office had admitted him to be Chief of Clan Chattan. He now undertook under an order of the Privy Council to be responsible for the good behaviour of all the holders of his name; then, to protect himself, issued a requisition to landowners of his name in Badenoch to give him letters of relief undertaking to answer to him for the good behaviour of themselves and their own people. These gentlemen, not being his feudal vassals, naturally resented the assumption of feudal authority, and appealed against it to the Privy Council, and that body thereupon released him from his bond of cautionary and required him only to become responsible for his own tenants and servants and the persons of his name descended from his family, while the Laird of Mackintosh was required to become responsible, among others, for such of the name of Macpherson as might be his feudal vassals. Further, at the instance of the Laird of Mackintosh, the Lord Lyon withdrew Cluny's previous matriculation of arms, and granted him a coat as a cadet of the Mackintoshes. The right to use supporters, the heraldic sign of chiefship, was also denied him, and it was not till 1873 that this right was conceded by the Lyon Office, the person to whom it was conceded being the late Ewen Macpherson of Cluny, who succeeded in 1817 and died in 1885.

Meanwhile the Macpherson chiefs paid little attention to the ruling of the Lord Lyon. In 1673 Cluny signed a contract of friendship with Macdonald of Glengarry "for himself and taken burden upon him for the haell name of Macpherson and some others called Old Clanchatten as cheefe and principall man thereof." It is true that in 1724, on consideration of receiving from the Mackintosh chief certain lands about Loch Laggan, the chief of the Macphersons signed an agreement renouncing in favour of Mackintosh all claim to be chief of Clan Chattan; but this deed is open to the suggestion that it refers only to the more modern Clan Chattan confederacy, which originated with the heiress Eva and Angus Mackintosh in 1291. There can be little doubt that if the descent from Muirich, parson of Kingussie, is authentic, Macpherson of Cluny is the actual heir-male of the older Clan Chattan chiefs, and since the battle of Invernahavon the existence of



a chiefship of the Macphersons can never really have been in doubt.

It was the chief, Duncan Macpherson, who had the transactions with the Lord Lyon, who in 1680 at last procured from the Marquess of Huntly the permanent ownership of Cluny, which had been possessed by his ancestors only as removable tenants. At the revolution in 1689, when Viscount Dundee opened his campaign in Scotland for King James, Cluny Macpherson was commissioned by the Estates to call together all the friends, kinsmen, vassals, and tenants under his command or influence, and reduce them into troops, companies, or a regiment, with power to name his inferior officers. Upon his death without male descendants in 1722 the representation passed to Lachlan Macpherson of Nuid, and it was he who signed the deed of 1724 above mentioned. In 1704 he married Jean, daughter of the famous Sir Ewen Cameron of Lochiel, and from this pair the later Cluny Macphersons have descended.

Lachlan Macpherson of Cluny lived till 1746, but it was his eldest son Ewen who figured so conspicuously as the Cluny Macpherson of the Jacobite rebellion of 1745. Only a short time previously had occurred the tragic incident of the Black Watch, which is one of the most pathetic in Scottish military history. The regiment, which had been enrolled to keep order in the Highlands, was marched to London, and a rumour spread that, contrary to its terms of enlistment, it was to be sent abroad. Suddenly and secretly the whole body set off for the north, but they were intercepted in Northamptonshire and marched back to the Tower. After trial many of them were banished to the Colonies, and three were shot, of whom two were Macphersons. This event had produced a strong feeling among the clansmen against the Government of King George. Before the landing of Prince Charles Edward, Cluny Macpherson had been granted a commission in Lord Loudon's regiment, but at the outbreak of the rebellion in 1745 he was captured by the Jacobites, and, shortly after the battle of Prestonpans, threw in his lot on the side of the Stewarts. With a hundred and twenty Macphersons he took part in the march to Derby, and at Clifton, during the retreat, it was he and his men who bore the chief brunt of the Hanoverian attack. During the winter Macpherson and his clan were allowed by the Prince to remain at home, and they were only on their way to rejoin the Prince's army when at Dalmagerry, near Moy, they were met by news of the defeat at Culloden.



Had Cluny with his six hundred men reached the field in time it may well be believed they might have changed the fortunes of that day. As it was, the issue meant ruin for the chief. In the months which ensued his seat at Cluny was burned and his estate was forfeited. For some months he lived with his cousin, the younger Lochiel, in the famous hiding-place known as the cage on Ben Alder, where for a time he afforded shelter to the hunted Prince himself; and when Charles finally left for France he confided his military chest to the chief, and gave him a letter acknowledging his services and promising reward. For nine years Macpherson lived in caves and other hiding-places among his own people, whose affection for him may be judged by the fact that none was ever tempted by the Government reward to betray him. During these years, in 1750, his wife, a daughter of the notorious Simon, Lord Lovat, gave birth to his son and heir in a kiln for drying corn. When at last Macpherson escaped to France in 1755 he carried with him the Prince's military chest containing a considerable sum of money, which he had preserved intact, and his name remains among the most highly honoured of those who took part in the unfortunate Jacobite cause.

Duncan Macpherson, the chief born in the corn kiln, became Colonel of the 3rd Regiment of Foot Guards, and the forfeited estates were restored to him in 1784. He married Catherine, daughter of Sir Ewen Cameron of Fassifern, another famous Jacobite, and died in 1817. His son Ewen was made a Companion of the Bath in 1881. He died in 1885, having been chief of the Macphersons for sixty-eight years, and the representation of the family has since been held in succession by his three sons, Duncan, Ewen, and Albert, the last of whom is the present chief.

Cluny Castle, Macpherson's seat, is a handsome modern building a few miles south-west of Kingussie. Its chief treasures are several highly interesting relics of the clan and of Prince Charles Edward Stewart. Among these last is the Prince's target, lined with leopard skin and richly and beautifully mounted with silver trophies and ornaments. There are also the Prince's gold-inlaid pistols, and silver-mounted sealskin sporran, as well as his lace ruffles given to Cameron of Fassifern, the farewell autograph letter already mentioned, and a plate from which it was intended to print notes for the use of the Jacobite army. Another relic is the Bratach-uaine, or green banner of the clan, regarding which an old woman is said to have told the Duke of Cumberland that if he awaited

its arrival he would certainly meet defeat. The Crios Breac, again, is a leathern belt of red morocco with silver studs representing the Agnus Dei and head of St. John alternately, and believed to have been brought from the Holy Land by one of the early chiefs. But perhaps the chief treasure of the house is the Feadun Dhu or Black Chanter of Clan Chattan, which is said to have fallen from heaven to supply the loss of the chanter used by the piper who played in the famous battle of the "Threttie against Threttie" on the North Inch in 1396, and on the preservation of which the prosperity of the house of Cluny is believed by every true clansman to depend.

Of other famous members of the Clan, two have been noted for their connection with Indian affairs. Sir John Macpherson, Bart., began life as a writer in the service of the East India Company at Madras in 1770, was dismissed for his conduct on a secret mission to this country for the Nabob of the Carnatic, but was reinstated in 1781. He was twice a member of the British Parliament, became a member of the Supreme Council of Calcutta in 1782, and was Governor General of India from 1785 to 1786, when he was created a baronet.

Sir Herbert Taylor Macpherson, as a Major-General of the Bengal Staff Corps, served under Havelock at Lucknow, where he gained the V.C. in 1857. He commanded a division in the Afghan War of 1878, was made K.C.B. in 1879, was present at Tel-el-Kebir in 1882, and was Commander-in-Chief at Madras in 1886, when he was sent to organise the pacification of Burma.

A more interesting character than either, however, was Sir Æneas Macpherson, the historian of the clan. Born in 1644, he became successively a writer and advocate, and was Sheriff Depute of Aberdeen in 1684-5. As a Jacobite, after the revolution he suffered imprisonment at home, and afterwards attached himself to the court in exile at St. Germain, where he appears to have been active as a confidential agent. Besides his history of the clan he was the author of various interesting pamphlets and other papers, which were printed by the Scottish History Society in 1902.

Most famous perhaps of all was James Macpherson, the young tutor to Ross of Balnagown, who began by collecting fragments of Gaelic poetry in the Highlands, and published between 1760 and 1764 the famous translations of Ossian, which have given rise to the greatest literary controversy the world has ever seen, and which, whatever their authenticity, played a vital part in the origin of the

great Romantic movement in literature which followed their time. As a historian, a pamphleteer, and a civil servant Macpherson acquired a handsome fortune, and, returning to Scotland, purchased an estate of the old clan lands on the Spey below Kingussie, where he built a fine mansion named Belleville or Balavil. One of his daughters married the famous Sir David Brewster, Principal of Edinburgh University, and their grandson, Mr. Charles Julien Brewster-Macpherson, is the owner of Balavil at the present day.

## SEPTS OF CLAN MACPHERSON

Cattanach	Clark
Clarke	Clarkson
Clerk	Currie
Fersen	Gillespie
Gillies	Gow
Keith	Lees
MacChlerich	MacChlery
MacCurrach	MacGowan
MacKeith	Maclerie
MacLeish	MacLise
MacMurdo	MacMurdoch
MacMurrich	MacVurrich
Murdoch	Murdoson





MAC QUARIE



## CLAN MACQUARIE

BADGE : Giuthas (pinus sylvestris) pine.

SLOGAN : An t-Arm breac dearg.

PIBROCH : An t-Arm breac dearg.

IN Scottish school-books there used to be, and perhaps there is yet, no more popular poem than "Lord Ullin's Daughter." One would seek far for a Scotsman who does not know the lines :

A chieftain to the Highlands bound  
Cries, " Boatman, do not tarry,  
And I'll give thee a silver pound  
To row us o'er the ferry."

" Now who be ye, would cross Lochgyle,  
This dark and stormy water? "  
" O I'm the chief of Ulva's isle,  
And this Lord Ullin's daughter."

Thomas Campbell got the inspiration for the poem when resident as a tutor near Crinan on the west coast of Knapdale, where every day before his eyes raged the stormy waters of the Sound of Jura, and he could almost hear the roar of the famous whirlpool of Corrieveckan. Whether he had in his mind any actual tradition of these legend-haunted shores is not known, but, so far as the present writer is aware, there is no incident to correspond with the poem in the actual history of the MacQuaries, who were " Chiefs of Ulva's Isle."

The island of Ulva itself, with its wonderful columnar terraces, lies on the west coast of Mull, in the great bay which has for its inner continuation the beautiful Loch na Keal, immortalised as Lochgyle in Campbell's poem. From time immemorial this island was the home of the MacQuarie chiefs. Like the MacGregors of the central Highlands, whose exploits and sufferings are so much better known, those chiefs could make the proud boast, " Is Rioghal mo dhream," " my race is royal," for both traced their descent from Gregor, son of Alpin, king of Scots, who was beheaded by the Picts, in sight of his own army, on Dundee Law in the year 837. The second



son of Gregor was named Cor or Gor-bred, Latinised as Godfredus or Godfrey, and transmitted by the Culdee chroniclers as MacGotherie, MacGofra, and MacGorrie. The proper Gaelic spelling is said to be MacGuarai, and from this are derived the common modern forms of MacQuarie in Scotland and MacGuaran or MacGuire in Ireland.

In the chapel of St. Oran on Iona is still to be seen the effigy of one of the ancient MacQuarie chiefs. It is of unknown date, but is executed in superior style, and the mere fact of its existence among the tombs of kings and chiefs in that most sacred shrine declares that at one period the MacQuaries were among the notables of first importance in the Western Isles.

The great man of the race in early times appears to have been Cormac Mor, who was Chief in the reign of Alexander II. When that king was making his great endeavour, in the middle of the thirteenth century, to overthrow the Norwegian power in the Western Highlands and Isles, he was joined by Cormac with a force of three birlinns or galleys of sixteen oars each. This loyalty to the Scottish king brought disaster upon the MacQuarie chief. On Alexander's death at Dalrigh in the island of Kerrera in 1249, his great expedition to "plant his standard on the walls of Thurso" was abandoned, and those among the islesmen who had taken his side were left to the vengeance of their neighbours who supported Norway. MacQuarie was attacked, defeated, and slain, and his island domain subjected to all the horrors of western savagery of that time. From the general slaughter and ruin the chief's two sons, Alan and Gregor, found refuge in Ireland. The latter settled in that country, and the name of his descendants there is said alternatively to be derived from the personal characteristic from which he was surnamed, of "garbh," or the rough. This Irish branch afterwards, under the Earls of Enniskillin, became exceedingly powerful in the sister isle.

Meantime in Scotland itself the tables had been turned by the defeat of the Norwegian King Hakon at the battle of Largs in 1263, and the MacQuarie chief was enabled to come to his own again. In the wars of Bruce for the independence of Scotland, Eachuin, or Hector, who was chief at that time, consistently with the tradition of his family, took the patriotic side, and led his clan at the battle of Bannockburn. The same thing cannot be said, however, of the later chiefs of the sixteenth century. Another Eachuin, who was chief in the days of James

IV., was among the turbulent islesmen whom that king was forced to take strong measures to bring to obedience, and made more than one personal expedition to the Hebrides to subdue. The judicial records of 1504 contain repeated summonses to "MacCorry of Ullowaa" to appear before Parliament to answer a charge of rebellion. MacQuarry, in his distant island fastness, laughed at these summonses, and no serious effort to arrest him seems ever to have been made by Government. In 1517, four years after the battle of Flodden and the death of James, when the country was occupied by the bickerings of the Douglasses and other families who sought power by obtaining possession of the person of the Queen-Mother and the boy-king James V., Lachlan MacLean of Duart took occasion to secure a remission for his misdeeds, and at the same time stipulated for a similar favour to the "Chief of Ulva's Isle."

This chief married a daughter of MacNiel of Tainish, and the bride's dowry, which remains on record, reflects a curious light on the tastes and social circumstances of the time. It consisted of a piebald horse, with two men and two women. The latter appear to have kept somewhat to themselves amid their new surroundings on Ulva, and their descendants were long recognised there as a separate race.

In 1545, during the childhood of Queen Mary, when Henry VIII. was making a strong effort to harass and overthrow the Scottish Government, Donald MacQuarie, son of the last-named Chief, was one of thirteen heads of clans denounced for entering into traitorous correspondence with the English king. Henry's schemes, however, came to nothing, and in the disturbed state of Scotland at that time nothing appears to have been done to punish the island chief.

It was probably during that troubled century that the incident occurred which is still commemorated in the name of a wild headland on the south coast of Mull. One of the MacLaine chiefs of Lochbuie, the tradition runs, had seized a certain Gorry or MacGorrie, and inflicted upon him an unusually severe punishment by flogging. When the punishment was over, and MacGorrie was restored to liberty, he took a fearful vengeance. Seizing Lochbuie's infant son and heir he rushed to the top of the precipice, where he threatened to throw the child over unless Lochbuie consented to undergo the same chastisement as he had suffered. In the midst of all his clansmen the agonised parent was forced to bare his back and submit to the torture, his exulting enemy, when the blows slackened,



constantly shouting out "More! More!" When at last MacIaine sank fainting under the stripes, and MacGorry's vengeance seemed complete, he turned, and, the boy in his arms, with a yell leapt over the precipice to destruction. From this incident the headland is still known as Gorrie's Leap.

To the same period belongs the story of the famous pirate of the Island seas, Alan a Sop. Alan was the natural son of Maclean of Duart by a beautiful girl of his clan. She afterwards married Maclean of Torloisk on the western coast of Mull. Torloisk treated his stepson badly, and on one occasion thrust into his hands a burning cake which his mother was baking for him, so that he fled from the house. Years afterwards, having become the chief of a pirate flotilla, and hearing his mother was dead, he returned to avenge himself on his cruel stepfather. The crafty Torloisk, however, received him well, and, gaining his goodwill, suggested that he should attack and slay Macquarie of Ulva, and seize that island. By this means he hoped to get rid of Macquarie, against whom he had a grudge. The Chief of Ulva, however, also received Alan hospitably, and when the latter, on leaving, said the hospitality had cost him dear, and confessed what his errand had been, Macquarie turned the tables on his enemy, Torloisk, by reminding Alan of the incident of the burning cake, and suggesting this as a proper object of vengeance. Thereupon the pirate returned to Mull, brained Torloisk with a battle-axe as he came down the beach to hear of Macquarie's death, and took possession of his estate.

In the seventeenth century Donald's son, Alan, took part on the side of Charles II. in the attempt of that young monarch to recover for himself his father's throne in Scotland. After the defeat of the Covenanting army by Cromwell at Dunbar, Charles had been crowned by Argyll at Scone, and assuming personal command of the Scottish army, had held Cromwell at bay before Stirling for a month. The Protector then tried the plan of turning the Scottish flank by sending a force under Colonel Overton into Fife. To defeat this attempt Charles sent forward a contingent under two officers, Holborn and Brown, and a battle took place on the north shore of the Forth at Inverkeithing. In that encounter Holborn showed himself a knave and perhaps a traitor, and though Brown fought bravely, he was defeated and his force was cut to pieces. Among those who fell was Alan MacQuarie, with most of his followers from far-off Ulva.



From that time the fortunes of the MacQuarie Chiefs seem to have taken a downward turn. The last of the line to inherit Ulva was Lachlan, the sixteenth chief. In 1778, finding his financial embarrassments overpowering, he sold his estates to pay his debts, and though sixty-three years of age, entered the army. He died in 1818 at the great age of 103.

The greatest of the race, however, was still to play his part in history. Major-General Lachlan MacQuarie was either the eldest son or the nearest cadet of the sixteenth Chief. Entering the army in 1777 he saw active service in India as the sieges of Cannanore and Seringapatam, and from 1809 till 1821 was Governor of New South Wales. There he became famous by encouraging exploration, by ameliorating the condition of the convicts, by the erection of public buildings and works, and by laying out the town of Sydney. In his honour the rivers Lachlan and Macquarie received their names, as well as an island south of Tasmania discovered in 1811. His policy regarding the convicts, however, was severely criticised in the House of Commons, and he was recalled in 1821. Then he bought back Ulva, and when he died in London in 1824 his body was carried north and buried with his ancestors. He married, first, Miss Baillie of Jerviswood, and secondly, a daughter of John Campbell of Airds, and he was succeeded by Lachlan, his son by the latter. Lachlan, however, died without issue, and the estate of Ulva passed to another name.

## SEPTS OF CLAN MACQUARIE

MacCorrie  
MacGorrie  
Macquaire  
Macquire  
Wharrie

MacGauran  
MacGuire  
Macquhirr  
MacWhirr

## CLAN MACRAE

BADGE : Garbhag an t-sléibhe (*Lycopodium selago*) club moss.

SLOGAN : Sgùr Urain.

PIBROCH : Spaidsearachd mhic Rha.

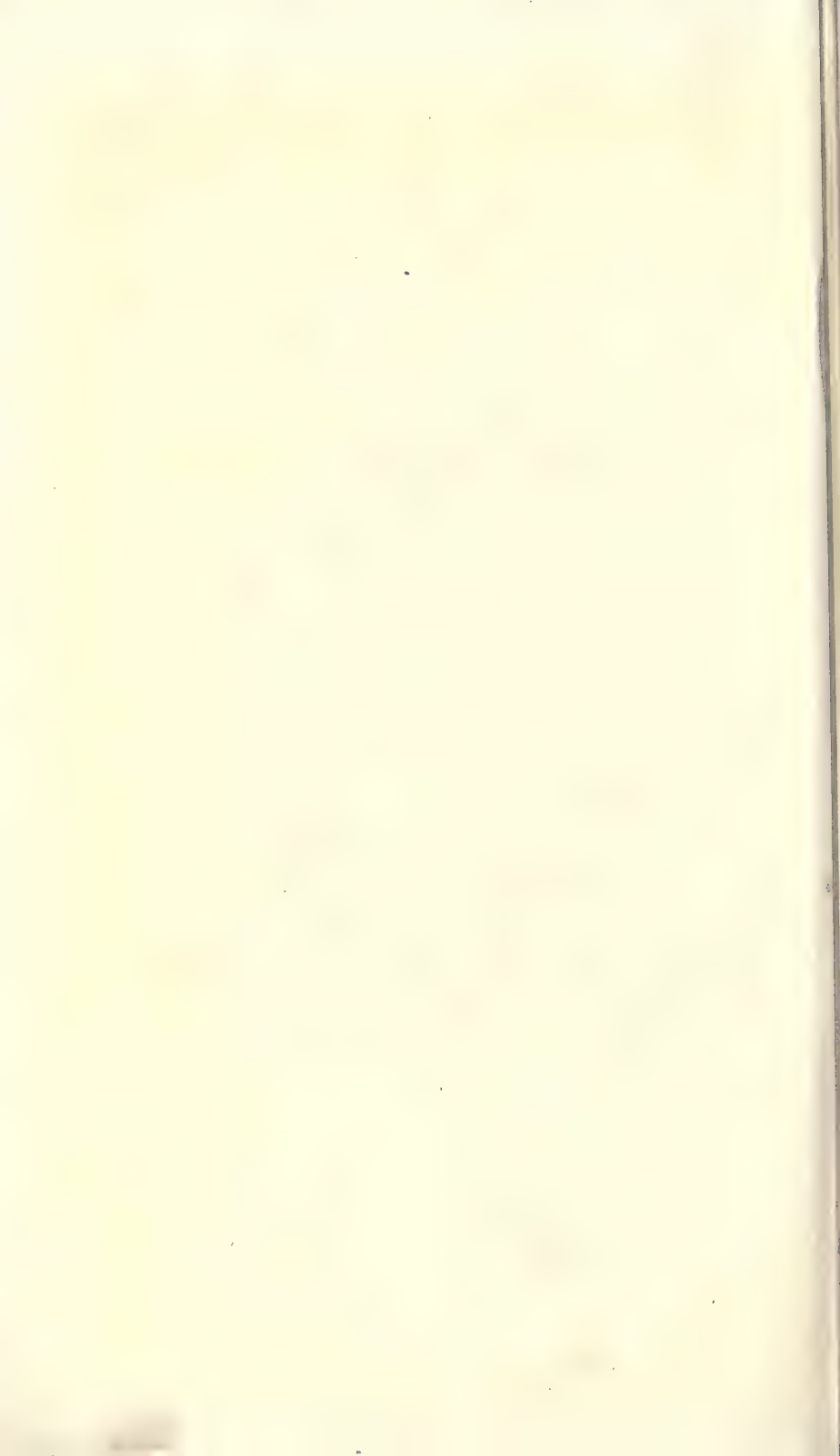
As with so many others of the Scottish clans, traditions differ as to the actual origin of the Clan MacRae. The name MacRath, pronounced MacRa, or corruptly MacRae, the "son of good fortune," is said to have been the exclamation of a father regarding his son, who had performed some fortunate exploit. According to some, the clan was indigenous in the district of Kintail in Ross-shire, where the race is numerous to the present day. According to others, the ancestor of the MacRaes came over from Ireland in the thirteenth century with Colin Fitzgerald, son of the Earl of Desmond, to whom the same tradition attributes the origin of Clan MacKenzie. MacRae, they say, fought under Fitzgerald at the battle of Largs in 1263, and while Fitzgerald was appointed Constable of Eilandonan Castle on Loch Duich, MacRae settled in the Aird of Lovat, from which his descendants afterwards migrated to Glenshiel in Kintail. This tradition hardly agrees with another, equally popular. According to the latter, Mary, daughter of the last chief of the Bissets, was fostered in the family of MacRae of Cluns. Marrying the ancestor of the Frasers, she carried the estates of Lovat into her husband's family, and in token of the respect which she and her husband entertained for her foster-parents, a stone, it is said, was set up at the door of Lovat's castle declaring that no MacRae should lodge without while a Fraser resided within. As the Bissets were forfeited in the reign of Alexander II., this story, if true, would show that MacRaes were substantial people in the north a considerable time before the reputed Colin Fitzgerald and his henchman fought at the battle of Largs.

Whatever the actual origin of the Clan and name MacRae, however, it seems clear that, from their earliest appearance in history, a close and most friendly relationship existed between the MacRaes and the Chiefs of the



MAC RAE





MacKenzie clan. When the ancestor of the Earls of Ross was still only Colin og, son of Colin of the Aird, the MacRaes were probably his faithful adherents, and when Black Murdoch, son of Kenneth of Kintail, from whom all the MacKenzie chiefs were descended, received his charter from David II. in 1362, the MacRaes were no doubt part of his following. When the MacKenzie chief was arrested by James I., on his visit to Inverness in 1427, he is said to have been able to raise a force of 2,000 men. Of this host a considerable number must have been MacRaes, for it is said that, while MacKenzie owned Kintail, there were very few of his own name in the district, the majority being MacRaes. The latter were, in fact, known as MacKenzie's *Lein chrìos*, "mail shirt," or bodyguard. Their privileged and honoured place, nearest the Chief, continued even after his death, for at his funeral they took the first "lift" of his coffin as it left the castle on the way to burial. This last right was exercised even so late as the year 1862, when, after the death of the Hon. Mrs. Stewart-MacKenzie, daughter and representative of Lord Seaforth, her coffin was borne out of Brahan Castle by a contingent of MacRaes.

As evidence of the high trust and esteem in which they were held by the Chiefs of Kintail, the MacRaes were again and again appointed Constables of MacKenzie's stronghold of Eilandonan. The office was not hereditary or continuous, for MacKenzie appears to have been anxious to retain personal control of the castle. A list of the successive constables, which has been given as follows, will best show the position.

Malcolm MacIan Charrich MacRae, *circa* 1509.

1. Christopher MacRae, *circa* 1511.

2. John dubh Matheson of Fernaig, killed 1539.

3. Duncan MacRae, "Donnachadh MacGillechrìosd," temporary Constable 1539.

John Murchison, "Ian MacMhurchaidh Dhuibh," Priest of Kintail, 1539.

4. Christopher MacRae, 1580.

5. Murdoch Murchison, Vicar of Kintail, 1614.

6. Farquhar MacRae, 1618-1651, Vicar of Kintail, son of Christopher MacRae, and born at Eilandonan in 1580, when his father was Constable.

As followers of the MacKenzie Chiefs the MacRaes performed many famous feats of war. Some of the most notable of these were achieved during the struggle with

the MacDonalds, which followed the resignation of the Earldom of Ross by the last Lord of the Isles in 1476. A sequel to that event was the feud between MacKenzie and Alexander MacDonald of Loch Alsh, nephew of the island lord. In an endeavour to recover the earldom and the lands transferred to MacKenzie by the King, MacDonald had invaded the country, burning and slaying. He was met and overthrown on the banks of the Conon by the son of the MacKenzie chief at the battle of Blar na Pairc. In this battle one of the MacRaes, Duncan More, a man of immense strength, is said to have played a very conspicuous part, and contributed largely to the defeat of the MacDonalds. It was said of this warrior that, though engaged in many conflicts, and invariably victorious, he never escaped without a wound. Another MacRae warrior, known as Surachan, after slaying a notable personage in the MacDonald ranks, was seen by MacKenzie to seat himself calmly on the body of his fallen foe. On MacKenzie asking why he had ceased fighting while so much depended on his efforts, Surachan replied, "I have done my day's work. If every man does as much the day is ours!" "Kill more," exclaimed MacKenzie, "and I shall not count your work by the day!" Thereupon Surachan leaped to his feet, and dealt out a terrible slaughter upon the enemy. In consequence the battle was commemorated in the famous tune, "Spaidsearachd mhic Rha'," which to the present day, as its name imports, is the march of the clan.

A few years later, in 1509, when Hector Roy MacKenzie was trying to wrest the chiefship from his nephew, John of Killin, whom he accused of illegitimacy, Eilandonan was held for Hector by its Constable, Malcolm MacIan Charrich MacRae. The besiegers brought MacRae's cattle down to the shore and slaughtered them in his sight for food, but MacRae still refused to surrender, and held out till Hector made an arrangement with his nephew.

Another episode of the feud with the MacDonalds which followed the transference of ancient MacDonald lands to the MacKenzies, took place in 1539. On this occasion Donald Gorm MacDonald of Sleat, learning that Eilandonan was slenderly garrisoned, laid siege to the island stronghold with fifty birlinns or galleys. John Dubh Matheson of Fernaig, the Constable of the Castle, had been killed, and only two men were left, Duncan MacGilchrist MacRae and the watchman. The defenders were nearly exhausted, and MacRae was reduced to his



last arrow, when he saw Donald Gorm going round the walls to decide on the best place to make his final assault. Drawing his bow, MacRae sent out his last arrow. It struck MacDonald in the foot. In the pulling of it out an artery was severed, and the bleeding could not be stopped. The wounded man was carried some distance away, to a reef still known as "Larach tigh Mhic Dhomhnuill," and there died. His followers afterwards burned the castle and its boats, but this could not make up for the loss of their leader.

Still another famous exploit was that performed by Duncan MacRae, grandson of Duncan MacGilchrist. In the chief's absence in Mull, MacDonald of Glengarry had raided MacKenzie's lands of Strath Carron, and was returning home with his galleys heavily loaded with plunder. Only a few men were left at Eilandonan, but Lady Kintail sent them out under the intrepid Duncan MacRae. It was a night in November, and the sea was calm, while there were occasional showers of snow, as MacRae waited under the shadow of the headland at Kyle-rhea. At last, on the rising tide a boat shot through the narrows. Recognising it as MacDonald's scout, MacRae let it pass. A great galley next appeared, and, firing a cannon he had brought with him, MacRae dashed against it. Many of its oars were broken, and in a damaged state it ran upon the Cailleach Rock, where its entire crew of sixty, with MacDonald himself, were slain or drowned.

In the Civil War of Charles I., when Montrose raised the Royalist standard in the north, the MacRaes took the field under Seaforth, the MacKenzie chief, and many of them fell in the campaign. By way of counterpoise to these losses they are said to have added to their numbers in a somewhat curious way. While the MacRaes were known as Seaforth's "shirt of mail," the MacLennans, their neighbours in Kintail, were his standard-bearers. In this capacity, at the battle of Auldearn, a large number of the MacLennans were cut to pieces. As a result here were many MacLennan widows left in Kintail. No fewer than eighteen of these widows were married by MacRaes.

The MacRaes, again, were out with Seaforth in the Earl of Mar's rebellion in 1715. For that campaign Seaforth raised two regiments. Of these, two companies were raised in Kintail and one in Loch Alsh, and according to tradition were mostly comprised of MacRaes. It is said that, on the night before they marched away, they danced to the music of the pipes on the leaden roof of

Eilandonan. Alas! in the battle of Sheriffmuir, on 13th November, at which the Jacobite cause collapsed for the time, many of them were slain. Among those who fell, along with two of his brothers, was a certain Duncan MacRae, who was notable both as a poet of no little merit and as a man of extraordinary physical strength. His claymore, known as "the great Highlander's sword," was long preserved in the Tower of London, and on the farm of Auchnangart, in the MacRae country, is still to be seen a stone of immense size, which he is said to have carried a considerable distance and deposited where it now lies.

In the subsequent Jacobite attempt of 1719, when Cardinal Alberoni sent a fleet of thirty ships with 6,000 troops and 12,000 stand of arms to Scotland, under the Duke of Ormond, and only two vessels with three hundred Spaniards reached these shores, the MacRaes were again concerned. But the affair collapsed after the skirmish at Strachells, known as the battle of Glenshiel, in which Seaforth was wounded, and on 10th May, three British men-of-war, the *Worcester*, *Enterprise*, and *Flamborough*, under Captain Boyle, sailed up Loch Alsh, stormed Eilandonan, and, after the surrender of the Spanish garrison, blew up the stronghold.

To the same period belongs the story of one of the most famous members of the clan. James MacRae is said to have been the son of a humble washerwoman in the town of Ayr. Against his mother's entreaties and advice he ran away to sea, and nothing was heard of him for forty years. Then he returned, a nabob of immense wealth, after having been Governor of Madras. Ascertaining that his mother had been cared for in her last days by a niece, he sought out the latter, and finding that the niece and her husband, one MacGuire, a country fiddler, had four attractive daughters, he undertook the education of these girls. When they became of marriageable age he saw them all well married and dowered them well. Lizzie MacGuire, the eldest, was married to the Earl of Glencairn, and received from MacRae as a marriage portion the estate of Ochiltree. To the second he gave the estate of Alva, and her husband, an eminent lawyer, became Lord Alva. A third, who married the son of Dalrymple, the minister of Ayr, received the estate of Orangefield, and the fourth married a natural son of his own, to whom he gave the lands of Houston in Renfrewshire. It is worth remembering that it was Lizzie MacGuire's son, the Earl of Glencairn, who gave Robert



Burns his chief lift when he went to Edinburgh to find his fortune, the poet having been recommended to his notice by his cousin, Dalrymple of Orangefield. So much had this member of the clan MacRae to do with the raising to name and fame of the great national bard. Governor MacRae also in 1734 presented to Glasgow its first statue, the equestrian monument to King William III., which still dominates the Trongate at Glasgow Cross. A monument was afterwards erected to the memory of MacRae himself in the parish of Prestwick, near Ayr.

From an early date the MacRaes have been noted not only for exploits of arms, which brought them the title of the "wild MacRaes," but also for excellence in the gentler art of letters. From the early part of the fifteenth century some member of the race appears always to have held the office of Vicar of Kintail. John MacRae, the first vicar, is said to have studied with the monks of Beaulieu, and was much respected for his learning. The Rev. Farquhar MacRae, born in 1580, and last of the Constables of Eilandonan, was both an energetic churchman and a great Latin scholar. On his first visit to the island of Lewis he is said to have baptised all the inhabitants under forty years of age, no clergyman having resided on the island during that period. His second son, John MacRae, who became minister of Dingwall in 1640 and died in 1704, was author of a genealogical account of the clan, formerly in possession of Lieutenant-Colonel Sir John MacRae of Ardintoul, and now in the hands of Sir Colin MacRae, W.S., representative of the Inverinate family. Another of the clan, John MacRae, better known as MacUirisi, was last of a race of bards who handed on a poetic tradition for several generations. A poem which he composed on a heavy loss of cattle which he suffered, is considered one of the classics of the Gaelic language. Disgusted with the modern decadence of Highland customs and the introduction of new-fangled "improvements," he emigrated to America, and his lament for the necessity of doing so is also a notable composition. In our own time the late Rev. David MacRae was no less remarkable for his fighting qualities as an exponent of advanced opinions in theology, and for his upholding of the rights and honours of Scotland, than for his contributions to English literature. His *Americans at Home* and *America Revisited* furnish perhaps the best accounts of the manners and conditions of the great Republic of the West after the civil war between North and South.

A few years ago the actual position of the clan with



respect to its chiefship formed the subject of an interesting case in the Court of the Lord Lyon. Sir Colin MacRae, W.S., as representative of the family of MacRae of Inverinate, made application in that court for a grant of arms with supporters as the chief of the clan. His application was opposed by Major, now Lieutenant-Colonel, John MacRae-Gilstrap, whose elder brother, Mr. Stuart MacRae, is representative of the family of MacRae of Conchra. The contention of the objector was that the MacRaes had never acknowledged any other chief than Seaforth, and the upshot of the case was that the Lord Lyon refused the petition.

The MacRaes of Conchra and the MacRaes of Inverinate both claim descent from the ancient Constables of Eilandonan. Recently Colonel MacRae-Gilstrap has acquired the island and castle of Eilandonan, and proposes to restore the ancient stronghold.

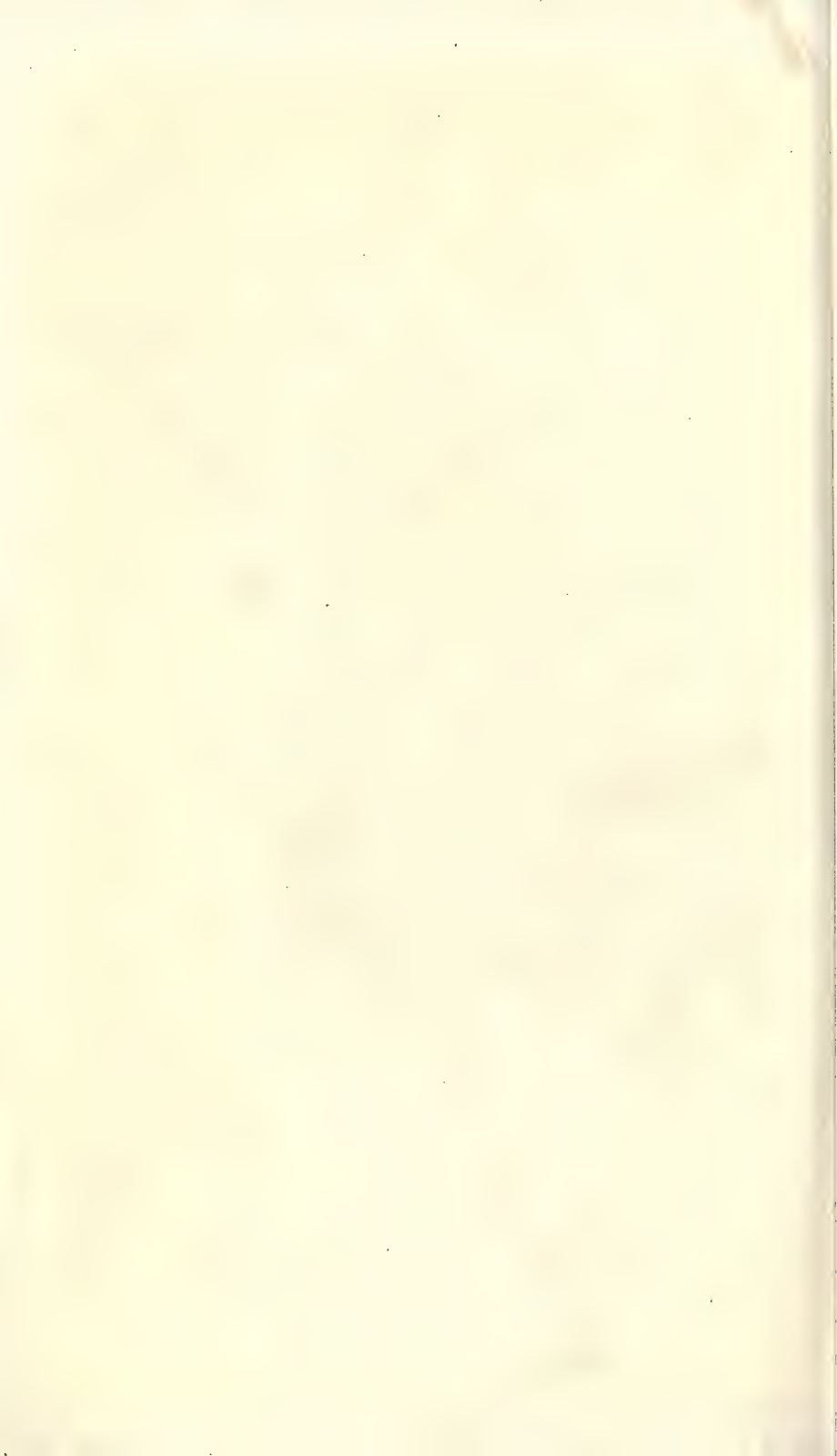
#### SEPTS OF CLAN MACRAE

Macara  
Macra  
MacRaith  
Rae

MacCraw  
Macrach  
MacRath



MATHESON





## CLAN MATHESON

**BADGE:** Bealaidh (Sarrothamnus scorparius) broom.

**SLOGAN:** Dail acha 'n da thear nai'.

CARE is taken by the historians of this clan to draw a distinction between its patronymic and that of the Lowland families whose original name was "Mathew's son." The Highland name, they point out, is Mac Mhathain, "the son of heroes," and the chiefs of the clan claimed to have been settled on the shores of Lochalsh in the west of Ross-shire as long ago as the time of Kenneth MacAlpin in the middle of the ninth century. According to tradition they were among the followers of that king in his wars with the Picts, whom he finally overthrew at the great battle of Cambuskenneth near Stirling in 838. They claimed to be of the same blood as the MacKenzies, whom they aver to have been the junior line. A certain Coinneach, or Kenneth, who was chief in the twelfth century, they say left two sons. From the elder of these Cailean or Colin, the Mathesons were descended, and from the younger, Coinneach or Kenneth, the MacKenzies took their origin. In the beginning of the fifteenth century the Matheson chief was strong enough to defy the Earl of Sutherland, and upon the latter descending upon Lochalsh, intent upon punishing so presumptuous a person, he was actually defeated and slain by the Mathesons. The scene of the encounter is still pointed out at a spot known from the event as Cnoc an Cattich.

Alastair MacRuari, who achieved this feat of arms, was among the turbulent chiefs of clans who supported the Lord of the Isles in his claim to the earldom of Ross and his struggle against the power of the Scottish kings. In the struggles of those times he is said to have been able to bring as many as 2,000 men into the field. Every student of Scottish history knows how those troublers of the peace were dealt with by James I. upon his return from his long captivity in England. Summoning them to a "Parliament" at Inverness, he promptly arrested the most dangerous of them, executed some on the spot, and

carried others to Edinburgh, where a number more were tried and condemned to the same fate. Alastair MacRuari was among the latter, and was executed in 1427.

Alastair left a widow with two sons, and his widow presently married again, her second husband being a son of Macleod of the Lews. This individual took advantage of the youth of his stepsons to endeavour to establish himself in possession of their property, and at last, finding themselves probably in actual danger, the lads fled from Lochalsh. While the younger went to Caithness, John, the elder of the two, betook himself to his mother's father, the chief of the Mackintoshes. He did not, however, give up the hope of recovering his patrimony, and by and by, having arrived at years of manhood, he obtained from his grandfather a force of men for his purpose, and set out to surprise the usurper. It was night when the party arrived at Lochalsh, and having observed the utmost precautions of secrecy, young Matheson succeeded in his purpose. Making a sudden assault, he set the castle on fire, and as the garrison was forced to come out they were slain or captured by the Mackintoshes. Anxious to save his mother's life, Matheson took up a position at the gate, and when she appeared, she was, by his orders, safely passed through the lines of the Mackintoshes. In the midst of the tumult, however, and flashings of the torches, it was not perceived that she was walking in an unusual way. She was wearing an arisaid, or wide plaited garment with heavy folds doubled around the hips. Under this she had managed to conceal her husband, and in a few moments the latter was beyond the light of the torches and able to escape in the darkness.

The Matheson chief then took possession of his patrimony, but he was not allowed to enjoy it long in peace. MacLeod, hastening to the Lews, raised a considerable force, with which he returned and deliberately invaded the Matheson country. In the encounter which took place he was finally forced to retreat, and as he fell back upon his birlinns or galleys, his force suffered severely from the flights of arrows poured into it by a company of Matheson bowmen under a certain Ian Ciar MacMurghai Mhic-Thomais. From this incident the battle is remembered as Blar-na-saigheadear. But MacLeod was not yet completely discouraged. Once more he gathered his men on the Lews, and once more came back. But in this second attempt he was defeated and slain, and the MacLeods troubled the Mathesons no more.

Meanwhile the MacKenzies had gradually risen to be a



clan of great power in the region, and in their island fastness of Eilandonan, at the mouth of Loch Duich, they were able to resist the attacks of all their enemies. The Macraes and the Mathesons in turn deemed it an honour to be appointed constable of Eilandonan, and a later Matheson chief, John, greatly distinguished himself in discharge of this duty. It was at the time of the great feud between the Macdonalds and the MacKenzies. Again and again the savage Donald Gorm of Sleat, on the coast of Skye, opposite, raided the MacKenzie country, but in these attacks Eilandonan was successfully defended by the Matheson chief. At last, however, as he stood by a window watching the progress of the defence, Matheson was struck down and slain by a Macdonald arrow. This was in 1537.

By that time the Mathesons had greatly diminished in influence, and John Matheson's son Dougal possessed no more than a third of the ancient Matheson property on Lochalsh. Even that property he was in danger of losing by engaging in a dangerous feud on his own account with Macdonald of Glengarry. This powerful chief had established himself on the shores of Loch Carron at hand, and he presently seized Matheson and threw him into prison, where he died.

This incident brought about the final ruin of the Mathesons. With a view to avenge his father's death, and recover his lost territory, Dougal's son, Murdoch Buidhe, relinquished all his remaining property, excepting the farms of Balmacara and Fernaig, to MacKenzie of Kintail, in return for the services of an armed force with which to attack Glengarry. The lands thus handed over were never recovered, and neither Matheson's generalship nor the force lent him by MacKenzie seems to have been equal to the task of forcing terms upon Glengarry. Murdoch's son, Ruari, the next Matheson chief, had more satisfaction, when, as part of the following of Seaforth, the MacKenzie chief, he set out to punish Glengarry. On this occasion Glengarry's stronghold of Sron, or Strome, on Loch Carron, was stormed and destroyed. By this time the Mathesons appear to have been merely the "kindly tenants" of Seaforth; in course of time that kindly tenancy, or occupation on condition of rendering certain services, was changed into a regular rent payment, and Balmacara and the other Matheson properties passed from the hands of the chiefs of that name for ever. The family was afterwards represented by the Mathesons of Bennetsfield, and in 1822, it appears, from a MS. history of the



clan quoted by James Logan, author of the letterpress of M'Ian's "Clans of the Scottish Highlands," the lineal representative of the ancient heads of the clan was a certain Alexander Matheson who lived in Sallachie. The Chiefship is now believed to be held by Hayling Matheson, who is resident in England.

In the middle of last century, however, two members of the clan succeeded in restoring the name to even more than the distinction it had enjoyed in the Highlands during the patriarchal and feudal centuries. Sir James Matheson, Bart., a cadet of tacksman stock, who had acquired vast wealth, and attained the distinction of a baronetcy by commercial enterprise in the East, became the owner, first of the great Highland estate of Achany, in the old clan neighbourhood, and afterwards purchased the great island of Lewis in the outer Hebrides. For the latter he paid no less a sum than £190,000 and he afterwards spent some £340,000 in improving his purchase. Among other great works he built the existing castle of Stornoway, on the site of old Seaforth Lodge, formerly the residence of the Earls of Seaforth who previously owned the estate. Half a century ago it was truly said, "No instance of improvement in recent times within the United Kingdom has been more striking to the eye of an observer, more compensating to the proprietor, or more beneficial to the population. Its details have comprised draining, planting, road-making, the reforming of husbandry, the improvement of live stock, the introduction of manufactures, and the encouraging of fisheries, all on a great scale, and with good results." In the policies of Stornoway Castle alone the work carried out included ten miles of carriage drives and five miles of footpaths. Previously little more of the land of the island than a narrow belt along the shore had been in cultivation, the rest being a dismal expanse of bog and moor. The improvements carried out by Sir James Matheson, however, may be said to have literally made the desert blossom like the rose. Alas for the patriotic and altruistic efforts of Sir James, the island a generation ago became the special field of the efforts of land agitators, who introduced discontent and trouble. Crofter's commissions and land courts have also played their part in interference, with the result that in the spring of 1918 Sir James's heir, Colonel Duncan Matheson, found it desirable to dispose of the island to Lord Leverhulme, head of the great firm of Lever Brothers, soap-makers on the Mersey. Happily Colonel Matheson still retains Achany, and so the house of the clansman who did so

much for the welfare of the Highlands is still represented in the old clan country.

Another notable figure is that of Sir Alexander Matheson of Ardross, who promoted the Highland Railway, and through the influence of the Sutherland family brought about the extension of the line to the far north, an enterprise that brought new prosperity to the northern Highlands. It is interesting also to note that the management of the Highland Railway to-day, as part of the London, Midland, and Scottish group, is in the hands of a clansman, Mr. Donald A. Matheson.

Another branch of the ancient family of Matheson of Lochalsh is represented in the district by Sir Kenneth James Matheson, Bart., of Lochalsh, whose seats are at Gledfield House, Ardgay, and Duncraig Castle, Plockton, at the mouth of Loch Carron. Sir Kenneth is descended from Farquhar Matheson, tacksman of Fernaig in Lochalsh in the latter half of the seventeenth century, Farquhar Matheson's mother having been a daughter of Alexander MacRae of Inverinate. Farquhar Matheson's eldest son, John, acquired Attadale in 1730. John's grand-nephew, another John Matheson, gave up Fernaig in 1810, having married in 1804 a sister of Sir James Matheson, Bart.; and his eldest son, Alexander, who was M.P. for the Inverness burghs and Ross-shire from 1847 to 1884, acquired the lands of Ardentoul and Inverinate, and in 1851 crowned his purchase by securing the barony of Lochalsh, the ancient patrimony of the chiefs of his clan. The present baronet, Sir Kenneth James Matheson of Lochalsh, is his eldest son.

Thus it will be seen that the fortunes of the Matheson clan have been happily restored in that clan's ancient country, though the lands may no longer be held by the direct lineal representatives of the ancient chiefs.

#### SEPTS OF CLAN MATHESON

MacMath  
MacPhun  
Mathie

## CLAN MENZIES

**BADGE :** (Dress) Fraoch na Meinnanich (Phyllodoce cœrulea) Menzies Heath, or (Hunting) Uinseann (Fraxinus excelsior) a sprig of ash, or (Ancient) Garbhag nan gleann (Lycopodium clavatum) staghorn or club moss.

**SLOGAN :** Geal 'us dearg a suas, The red and white for ever!

**PIBROCH :** Failte na Meinnanich.

THOUGH the chiefs of this clan had their seat in the very heart of Perthshire, the centre of the Highlands, cadets of the clan were landed men far to the north and south. The Menzieses of Pitfoddels in Aberdeenshire were a separate branch as early as the fourteenth century, while other houses of the name were located in Fifeshire, Lanarkshire, and the Lennox, about the lower districts of Kippen and Killearn. The valley of the Tay, however, seems always to have been the headquarters of the race, and the beautiful old seat of Weem Castle there still remains to speak of the former greatness of the clan. With its grey walls rising high among the trees in its stately park, against the noble background of the Hill of Weem, this romantic old house, dating from 1571, keeps memories of a long line of chiefs and their varying fortunes, which, as set forth in the *Red Book of Menzies*, edited by the claimant to the chiefship, excite a wistful regret in the mind of the student.

If one were to judge from a popular tradition of the neighbourhood, the house of Menzies might seem to have been settled here at a very early date indeed. The Hill of Weem, and Weem Castle itself, take their name from the Gaelic "Uamh," a cave, or a Pict's house. No cave is now traceable in the neighbourhood, so the alternative reading of "Pict's house" is more likely to be the origin of the name. The tradition runs that a certain ogre who inhabited this "Uamh," and who is described as going about in the guise of a red-hooded monk of scowling visage, carried off a daughter of the house of Menzies. The story forms the subject of a well-known Gaelic ballad. If it really goes back to the days of the Picts, this story would infer that the Menzieses had been settled here as long ago as the tenth century at least, and if it could be authenti-





MENZIES



cated would fully justify the claims made by writers like James Logan, author of *The Scottish Gael* and the letterpress of M'Ian's *Clans of the Scottish Highlands*, for a purely Celtic origin to this famous old clan. This writer founds his contention on the fact that the Gaelic appellation of the clan is Meinn, plural Meinnanich, often corruptly written Meinnarich. This corruption he regards as accounting for the fact that the name in old documents and charters is frequently spelt Meyners. The general view of genealogists, however, is that the name is Norman, and that the family was an early offshoot of the great house of Manners, whose head is now the Duke of Rutland. The probability is that the founder of the house of Menzies was one of those Norman or Saxon settlers brought into the country in the eleventh and twelfth centuries by Malcolm Canmore and his sons, when they were introducing the feudal system as a support for their dynasty, and as a means of establishing settled government and improved methods of living in the country.

The first mention of the name appears in charters of the reign of William the Lion, in 1213. By the middle of that century the family already occupied a distinguished position, as, in the reign of Alexander II., about 1250, Robert de Meyners, Knight, appears as Lord High Chamberlain. According to Douglas's *Baronage*, Alexander, the son of this personage, appears in possession of wide lands in many scattered districts, including Weem, Fortingal, and Aberfeldy in Atholl, Glendochart in Breadalbane, and Durrisdere in Nithsdale. Upon the death of this chief the lands of Fortingal, with their Roman traditions, went to his younger son Thomas, and in the fifteenth century, by the marriage of the heiress to James, natural son of the notorious Wolf of Badenoch, son of Robert II., they became the property of the Stewarts, with consequences which were almost disastrous to the elder line of Weem. In 1428 there is mention of Sir David Meigners of Weem. In later life this chief became a monk of the Cistercian order, and in 1450-1, following this event, his son and heir obtained a charter putting him in possession of Weem and the other family estates.

It was in the days of James IV. that the ambition of the chief brought him into conflict of most serious kind with his neighbours. Having acquired possession of the wild and beautiful district of Rannoch, he obtained a charter of that barony. On the very day on which the charter was signed, 2nd September, the caterans of Rannoch, led by



Neil Stewart of Fortingal and Garth, descended upon the headquarters of the chief at Weem, and, committing much havoc on his lands on Tayside, burned his castle. The stronghold of that time stood somewhat to the east, near the village of Weem and the eastern gate of the park. The blow was a serious one, and it was sixty-nine years before the stronghold was rebuilt on its present site. This was in 1571, three years after the overthrow of Queen Mary at the battle of Langside. The Menzies chief, however, retained possession of Rannoch, which remained part of the family estates down to the twentieth century. Meanwhile, his family charters having been destroyed by the fire, Robert Menzies of that ilk had obtained a re-grant dated 6th October, 1510, of his barony of Weem and other lands united into the barony of Menzies. In 1587, sixteen years after the rebuilding of Weem Castle, according to the *Acts of the Scottish Parliament*, "The Menyesses in Athoill and Apnadull" (the abthanery of Dull further up the valley of the Tay) are recorded as upon "The Roll of Clans that hes Captanes, chiefs, and Chieftanes on whom they depend."

The clan was long famous for the rearing of cattle, and its possessions in consequence were a special mark for the raids of less peaceably disposed tribes. "A fat mart from the herds of the Menzies" was a reward often promised for the performance of a deed of valour or for extraordinary skill as a piper. In consequence, the Menzies lands were the frequent subject of predatory raids. The clansmen, however, proved themselves well able to defend their property, and the skill in arms thus gained made them a welcome addition to the fighting forces of the country in the field.

During the civil wars of Charles I., the Menzieses suffered somewhat severely. In the wars of Montrose, for the accidental shooting of a trumpeter whose blood was the first shed in the campaign, the lands of the Menzieses were ravaged and greatly destroyed. Menzies of Pitfoddels was among the gentlemen who fought on the King's side against Montrose in the first fight of that general at the Bridge of Dee, and later, in the last battle fought by Montrose, himself now on the King's side, Gilbert Menzies of this family carried the Royal standard, and, refusing quarter, was slain rather than give up his trust.

In 1665 Alexander Menzies, eldest son of Duncan Menzies of Weem, was created a Baronet of Nova Scotia as "*Princeps clarae familiae.*" The mother of this laird was Jean Leslie, only daughter of James, Master of



WEEM CASTLE





Roths, and his wife was Agnes, eldest daughter of Sir John Campbell of Glenorchy. His eldest son, Robert, died before him, and he was succeeded by his grandson, another Alexander. In his time the Jacobite Rising of 1715 took place, and among those who were taken prisoners at the battle of Sheriffmuir were a number of "Gentlemen vassals of the Menzies chief." Among these were Menzies of Culdares and two of his brothers, but they were fortunate enough all to be pardoned.

In 1745, again, the clan was out on the Jacobite side. On this occasion the chief remained at home, and the clan was led by Menzies of Shian, with the rank of Colonel. On this occasion they brought into the field 300 fighting men, which is said to be a much smaller number than the ancient following of the chiefs. Menzies of Culdares, he who had been captured at Sheriffmuir, did not take the field on this occasion, but, to show his sympathy for the Jacobite cause, he sent a handsome charger for the use of Prince Charles Edward. The clansman who was sent with the horse into England by Culdares was taken prisoner, and condemned to death. In this situation he was offered pardon if he would reveal the name of the person who had made the gift to the Prince. The faithful Highlander, however, refused to betray his master, and suffered the last penalty in consequence.

This same cadet of the family, Menzies of Culdares, is said by General Stewart of Garth to have introduced the larch into Scotland in 1737, and to have given two plants to the Duke of Atholl. These are still to be seen growing beside Dunkeld Cathedral, and from them, it is said, have been derived all the valuable plantations of larch in the Atholl district.

Sir Robert Menzies, third baronet, married Mary, eldest daughter of James, first Earl of Bute, the strenuous opponent of the Union with England, the lady's mother being Agnes, eldest daughter of James VII.'s famous Lord Advocate, Sir George MacKenzie of Rosehaugh, founder of the Advocates' Library, and the "Bluidy MacKenzie" of Covenanting tradition. In November, 1778, Sir Robert Menzies executed an entail of the estates and baronies of Menzies and Rannoch, and at his death without issue in 1786 the title and possessions of the house reverted to his kinsman, John Menzies, grandson of Captain James Menzies of Comrie, second son of the first baronet. Sir John Menzies married Charlotte, eldest daughter of John, fourth Duke of Atholl, but in 1800 also died without issue, when the family honours were inherited by Robert Menzies,

son of Neill, third son of Captain James Menzies of Comrie. This Sir Robert was the fifth baronet, and from him the honours and possessions of the house descended directly to the late Sir Neill James Menzies, eighth baronet, who succeeded in 1903, and died without issue some three or four years later.

So far as at present recognised, Sir Neill Menzies was the last baronet and chief of the clan. A claim to the family honours and estates has, however, been made by Mr. D. P. Menzies of Plean Castle, near Larbert. This gentleman claims to represent Robert Menzies, yet another son of Captain James Menzies of Comrie above referred to, second son of Sir Alexander Menzies, first baronet. So far, Mr. Menzies has been unsuccessful in proving his case before the Lord Lyon and the Court of Session; but out of the mass of documents in his possession, and in the possession of others interested, which were acquired at the sale of the contents of Weem Castle after the death of Sir Neill Menzies, it is still possible that some absolute proof may be forthcoming in this interesting case.

The line of Menzies of Pitfoddels came to an end with the death of John Menzies, Sir Walter Scott's acquaintance, in 1834. This laird was an ardent Roman Catholic, and, besides largely benefiting Saint Margaret's Convent, Edinburgh, which was opened a year after his death, he in 1827 conveyed to Bishop Paterson his estate of Blairs for the education of secular priests. For a considerable period of years the old mansion-house of Blairs served for a college, but it has more recently been replaced by a great modern building which ranks as the chief seminary for Roman Catholic priests in Scotland.

Among others of the name who have earned a place in public recognition have been John Menzies, who, in the troublous times of Charles I. and Charles II., as minister and professor of divinity at Aberdeen, acted with constant inconsistency the part of a Scottish Vicar of Bray. There was Michael Menzies, who died in 1766, and who, while by profession an advocate, produced such useful inventions as a threshing machine, a machine for conveying coal to the pitshaft, and a machine for draining coal mines. There was also Archibald Menzies, the famous botanical collector (1754-1842). By profession a naval surgeon, he accompanied a voyage of fur-trading and discovery to the north-west coast of America and China in 1786-9. As naturalist and surgeon he went with Vancouver to the Cape, New Zealand, and North-West America in 1790-5, making on the way ascents of Wha-ra-rai and Mauna Loa

in Hawaii, settling their altitude by the barometer, and bringing home many interesting plants, cryptogams, and natural history objects. Members of the clan have also distinguished themselves in many other spheres, and the name must always remain among those honoured in Scotland.

## SEPTS OF CLAN MENZIES

Dewar  
MacMenzies  
MacMonies  
Mein  
Mennie  
Minn  
Monzie

Macindoer  
MacMinn  
Means  
Meine  
Meyners  
Minnus



## CLAN MUNRO

**BADGE :** Garbhag an Ghlinn, otherwise Crotal a mada'ruadh  
(*Lycopodium clavatum*) common club moss.

**SLOGAN :** Caisteal Foulis na theine.

**PIBROCH :** Failte Rothich and Beallach na Broige.

MUCH controversy has been excited regarding the origin of the name Munro. Clan tradition, detailed by Sir George MacKenzie, has it that the race, with others of the original Celtic inhabitants, was driven out of Caledonia by the Romans in the middle of the fourth century. Settling in County Derry in Ireland, they took the name from a mount on the River Roe there, and on returning to Scotland in the reign of Malcolm II. to help in expelling the Danes, they retained the name. According to the same tradition the lands on which they settled, formerly known as East Dingwall, received the name of Foulis from association with the River Foyle in Ireland. The whole story seems, to say the least, far-fetched. Sir George MacKenzie says the name was originally Bunroe, but there is nothing to confirm the statement. It seems much more likely that the cognomen had the same origin as the name of Montrose on the east coast of Scotland, which was originally known as Munros—"the hill promontory" or "the moss promontory." This would agree with the location of the territory of the chiefs on the south of Ben Wyvis in Ross-shire, the "promontory country," on the northern shore of the Cromarty Firth.

The first known of the race is said to have been a certain Donald O'Ceann, of the time of Macbeth. The patronymic O'Ceann, Skene, in his *Highlanders of Scotland*, ingeniously converts into O'Cathan, and so makes out that the race is a branch of the great Clan Chattan or Siol O'Cain. It seems much more likely, however, that the name Donald O'Ceann is simply what it says—Donald, son of the Chief. The same word is found in the name of the contemporary Malcolm III., who was known as Ceannmore or Canmore, "great Chief," by his Gaelic subjects. The Munroes are also known among the Highlanders as Clan Rothich or Roich,



MUNRO





From this Donald O'Ceann, its first possessor, the territory on the north side of Cromarty Firth came to be known as Fearran Donuill, or Donald's Country. Foulis, or Fowlis, the actual seat of the Chief from then till now, is a local and personal name common in Scotland. There are parishes of Fowlis-Easter and Fowlis-Wester in Perthshire, and a family of Fowlises or Foulises were the owners from whom the ancestor of Lord Linlithgow in the reign of Charles I. acquired by marriage the valuable mining property of Leadhills in Lanarkshire.

Hugh Munro of Foulis, who died in 1126, is believed to have been a son of George, son of Donald O'Ceann. His son Robert, who is reckoned to have been the second laird or baron of Foulis, took part in the wars of David I. and Malcolm IV., and died in 1164. It was Robert's heir, Donald (died 1192) who built the old tower of Foulis, and Donald's successor, another Robert, married a daughter of the Earl of Sutherland. It was to George, son of this pair, that, according to Nisbet's *Heraldry*, William, Earl of Sutherland, in the reign of Alexander II. granted a charter which runs, "carissimo et fidelissimo consanguineo, Georgio Munro de Foulis."

On the introduction of the feudal system, however, the Munroes had secured their possessions by accepting charters, not from the Earls of Sutherland but from their more immediate neighbours, the Earls of Ross. One of these charters, about 1350, expressly states that the lands of Easter Fowlis had belonged to the Munroes in free possession from the time of Donald O'Ceann. The reddendo mentioned for the lands of Pitlundie was a pair of white gloves or three pennies if required.

Meanwhile the friendship with the Earl of Ross had involved the Munroes in serious trouble. In 1282 the clans Iver, Talvigh, and Laiwe, with others, had rebelled against the Earl, the latter seized their leader and imprisoned him at Dingwall, and the rebels, to safeguard their chief, carried off the Earl's second son from Balnagown, and held him as a hostage. Thereupon, according to Sir Robert Gordon, "the Munroes and the Dingwalls, with some others, gathered their forces and pursued the Highlanders with all diligence, so overtaking them at Beallach na Croig, betwixt Ferrindonnel and Loch Broom. There ensued a cruell fight, well foughten on either side. The clan Iver, clan Talvighe, and clan Laiwe were almost utterlie extinguished and slain, but the Munros had a sorrowful victory, with great loss of their men, yet carried back again the Earl of Ross his son.

The Laird of Kildun was ther slain, with seven score of the surname of Dingwall. Divers of the Munroes were slain in this conflict, and there were killed eleven of the house of Foulis, that were to succeed one another, so that the succession fell unto a child then lying in his cradel." Thus ended "carrissimus et fidelissimus Georgius Munro de Foulis."

Robert, the infant in the cradle, fought in Bruce's army at Bannockburn. His only son, George, was slain in the battle, but left an heir, another George, who fell at Halidon Hill in 1333.

In 1341, while Robert, the son of this chief, was still an infant, occurred an event which would seem to show that the Munroes were certainly not regarded as kinsmen by the Captains of the Clan Chattan. John Munro, the "tutor" or guardian of Foulis, was treated with some indignity by the inhabitants of Strathardle as he passed through that country. For this his clansmen eagerly desired revenge, and the tutor accordingly raised a force of 350 picked men, with which he raided the Strathardle lands. As he returned past the Mackintosh seat of Moy, Mackintosh demanded his toll of the plunder. The tutor offered a share, but Mackintosh demanded nothing less than half. "Wherewith John Munro would not hearken nor yield, but goeth on his intended journie homeward, MacIntosh conveens his forces with all diligence, and follows John Munroe, whom he overtook at Clagh ne Hayre, besyd Inverness, hard by the ferry of Kessack. John, perceaving MacIntosh and his company following, then hard at hand, sent fiftie of his men home to Ferrindonald with the spoil, and encouraged the rest to fight. So there ensued a cruell conflict, wherein MacIntosh was slain, with the most part of his companie. Divers of the Munroes were also ther killed. John Munroe was left as deid in the field, and was taken up by the Lord Lovet, who carried him to his house, where he was cured of his wounds, and wes from thenceforth called John Bacclawigh becaus he wes mutilat of one of his hands all the rest of his days."

Robert Munro of Foulis, the eighth laird, who was in tutelage at the time of this conflict, and was slain in an obscure skirmish in 1369, married a niece of Euphemia, daughter of the Earl of Ross and second wife of King Robert II. By this marriage the Munro chiefs became nearly related, not only to the royal house of Stewart but to Robert II.'s grandson, Donald, Lord of the Isles, who married the sister of the last northern Earl of Ross, and



claimed the earldom in her right. When, therefore, the Island Lord set out to make good his claim at the battle of Harlaw in 1411 he was joined by Hugh Munro, the next laird of Foulis, his wife's cousin. Hugh Munro's successor, George, was killed in one of the conflicts of these wars of the Isles and the Douglasses in 1454, but when towards the end of the century the troubles ended with the forfeiture of the earldom of Ross and the ruin of the last Lord of the Isles, the Munroes escaped scatheless, and indeed rose in rank by having their vassalage transferred to the Crown. The fresh charters which they then obtained from the King declared that they held their lands on condition of furnishing a snowball at midsummer if required. This condition they could easily fulfil, as snow was to be found in some of the mountain corries of their property all the year round.

William, second in succession to the chief slain in 1454, died, like so many of his ancestors, by violence in 1505. His successor, Hector Munro of Foulis, married Katherine, daughter of Sir Kenneth MacKenzie of Kintail, and their son Robert, the next chief, fell fighting against the English aggression at the battle of Pinkie in 1547. His son, Robert More Munro, the fifteenth chief, took the part of Queen Mary against the Earl of Huntly. To judge from the narrative of George Buchanan, the clan was now regarded as one of the chief in the north. When Huntly's henchman refused the Queen admission to her castle of Inverness in 1562, the famous Latin historian wrote, "When they heard of the Queen's danger a great host of the Scottish notables, some under pressure, some of their own accord, attached themselves to her, foremost among them being the Frasers and Munros, among the most valiant of these tribes."

In view, probably, of the help afforded to the Queen's cause and his own on that occasion, the Regent Moray in 1569 entrusted the castle of the canonry of Ross to Andrew Munro of Milntown, and this doughty castellan defended the stronghold for three years, at the cost of many lives, against the attacks of the MacKenzies, with whom the Munroes were then at feud. It was only under the later act of pacification that the castle was finally delivered up to the MacKenzies.

Robert More Munro, the chief of that time, already mentioned, became a Protestant in the early days of the Reformation, and this fact practically decided the future politics of the clan. It was probably in consequence of this that Robert Munro, the eighteenth chief, remembered



in Highland tradition as "the Black Baron," proceeded in 1626 to join the Protestant forces of Gustavus Adolphus. He and six other officers of his name went over with the Scottish corps raised by Sir Donald MacKay, first Lord Reay, head of the other chief Protestant clan of the north, and three years later he raised a regiment of 700 men on his own lands. According to Doddridge, "The worthy Scottish gentleman was so struck with a regard to the common cause, in which he himself had no concern but what piety and virtue gave him, that he joined Gustavus with a great number of his friends who bore his own name. Many of them gained great reputation in this war, and that of Robert, their leader, was so eminent that he was made colonel of two regiments at the same time, the one of horse, the other of foot." In the service of Gustavus there were at one time no fewer than "three generals, eight colonels, five lieutenant-colonels, eleven majors, and above thirty captains all of the name of Munro, besides a great number of subalterns."

The Black Baron died from a wound in the foot at Ulm in 1633. His brother Hector, who succeeded as nineteenth Laird of Foulis, also distinguished himself in the wars of Gustavus, and was created a Baronet of Nova Scotia by Charles I. in 1634. His son, another Sir Hector, dying in Holland in his seventeenth year in 1651, was succeeded by his distant kinsman, Robert Munro of Obsdale. Sir Robert was also a veteran of the wars of Gustavus Adolphus. In our own Civil Wars he served Charles I. chiefly in Ireland, from 1641 to 1645, when he was surprised and taken prisoner personally by General Monk. In the Royalist army he had one son a Major-General, two of the rank of Colonel, and one a Captain. He was afterwards Lieutenant-General of the Royalist troops in Scotland, where he fought a duel with the Earl of Glencairn. He afterwards joined the young Charles II. in his exile in Holland, and at the Restoration was made commander-in-chief of the forces in Scotland. He is generally understood to have been the original of Dugald Dalgetty in Scott's *Legend of Montrose*. He died before the Revolution in 1668. His eldest son, Sir John Munro, the fourth baronet, was such a strenuous supporter of Presbyterianism, that, being of massive frame, he was known as "the Presbyterian mortar-piece." He had been fined and imprisoned as a Covenanter, and at the Revolution he naturally took the side of William of Orange. His son, Sir Robert, though blind, was made High Sheriff of Ross by George I. in 1725. During the

risings of 1715 and 1719 his clan did much to check the activities of the MacKenzies and other Jacobite clans. This chief further influenced the future policy of the clan by marrying Jean, daughter of John Forbes of Culloden.

With these antecedents his eldest son, another Sir Robert, naturally took the Government side against the Jacobite risings of his time. He was Member of Parliament for Ross-shire. When the Independent Companies were, in May, 1740, formed into the 43rd Highland Regiment, afterwards famous as the 42nd or Black Watch, he was appointed lieutenant-colonel, the Earl of Crawford and Lindsay being Colonel. Sir Robert's next brother, George Munro of Culcairn, was one of the captains, while another was John Munro, who became Lieutenant-Colonel in 1745. The chief's youngest brother, Dr. James Munro, was surgeon of the regiment. In the Jacobite rising of 1745 the Munroes, following their chief, took the side of the Government, and played an important part in keeping the remoter northern counties for King George. The campaign, however, proved costly to the house of the chief. At the battle of Falkirk in January, 1746, Sir Robert himself fell, with his brother Dr. Munro. So greatly were they respected that the Jacobite victors, after the battle, buried them with military honours in Falkirk churchyard. The fate of Sir Robert's other brother, George Munro of Culcairn, was not less tragic. After Culloden, at which the clan took part in full force, the Highland clans were ordered to deliver up their arms. In fulfilment of this order one of the Jacobite clansmen, Dugald Roy Cameron, sent his son to Fort William to surrender some weapons. As the young man passed down Loch Arkaig, he was met by a party of soldiers under an officer named Grant, by whom he was seized and forthwith shot. Vowing vengeance upon the slayer of his son, who, he learned, rode a white horse, Dugald Roy lay in wait behind a rock above Loch Arkaig for the officer's return. By and by, as the troop came back, he took careful aim at the officer riding the white horse, and shot him dead. Unfortunately, however, Captain Munro had borrowed the horse, and it was he who was shot instead of Grant. On learning his mistake Dugald Roy gave up his vengeance, and became a soldier in the Government service.

Sir Robert's son, Sir Harry Munro, seventh baronet and twenty-fifth Chief, was an eminent scholar and Member of Parliament. His son, Sir Hugh, left no heir to the baronetcy, and was succeeded by his kinsman



Charles Munro of Culrairie, lineal male descendant of Lieutenant-General Sir George Munro, next brother of the third baronet. Sir Charles served with high credit under Wellington in Portugal, Spain, and France, and was wounded at the storming of Badajos. He also distinguished himself under Bolivar in the South American War of Independence, and commanded a division at the battle of Agnotmar, where the Spanish army surrendered to the Colombian general. The present Chief, Sir Hector Munro of Foulis, eleventh baronet and twenty-ninth laird, is his grandson. Among his other honours he is A.D.C. to the King and Lord-Lieutenant of Ross and Cromarty.

Among its cadets the house includes the family represented by Sir Hugh Munro, Bart., of Lindertis, in Forfarshire. This family is descended through younger sons from the Foulis chief who fought at Harlaw. Its immediate ancestor was General Sir Thomas Munro, Governor of Madras from 1820 to 1827, whose father, a wealthy Glasgow Virginia merchant, was ruined by the American War of Independence in 1776. The General's sister became the wife of the Hon. Henry Erskine, the famous Scottish lawyer and wit.

Another distinguished cadet was Sir Hector Munro of Novar, also an eminent Indian commander. He is said to have spent £120,000 in improving his estate on the Cromarty Firth. He died unmarried, but left three natural children. Of these the elder son Hugh, an officer in India, was killed by a tiger, and the younger, Alexander, was devoured by a shark, both in their father's lifetime. The daughter, Jane, married Colonel Sir Ronald Crauford Ferguson of Raith near Kirkcaldy, and her grandson is the present Right Hon. Sir Ronald Crauford Munro-Ferguson, P.C., G.C.M.G., of Raith and Novar, late Governor-General of Australia, created Lord Novar in 1921, and now Secretary for Scotland.

The clan has also a distinguished representative in literature in the person of Dr. Neil Munro the Celtic novelist, of the Loch Fyneside sept of the name; in archæology by the late Dr. Robert Munro, the eminent authority on lake-dwellings; and in politics by the Right Hon. Robert Munro, K.C., P.C., late Secretary for Scotland, now Lord Justice Clerk of the Court of Session, under the title of Lord Alness.

#### SEPTS OF CLAN MUNRO

Dingwall  
MacCulloch  
Vass

Foulis  
MacLulich  
Wass





MURRAY



## CLAN MURRAY

**BADGE :** Bealaidh chatti (*Ruscus occiliatus*) Butcher's broom.  
**PIBROCH :** Fàilte Dhuic Athull.

IT is highly interesting, at a period when this country has been brought into such close touch with the Belgian people, as indomitable as they are industrious, to recall the fact that more than one of our most illustrious Scottish families derive their descent from the notables of Flanders in earlier times. Among the Flemings who have left a conspicuous mark in Scottish history one of the most distinguished was a certain Freskin. Sir Robert Douglas in his *Scottish Peerage* calls him "a gentleman of Flemish origin" who came into Scotland during the reign of David I., and obtained from that munificent sovereign the lands of Strathbrock in Linlithgowshire. Soon after the settlement of this individual the famous insurrection of the Moraymen broke out. This was in the year 1130, and Freskin by his skill and bravery is said to have contributed vitally to the reduction of the rebellion. In return, King David conferred upon him a large and fertile district in the lowlands of Moray. Forthwith the new owner built a strong castle at Duffus, where his descendants flourished for many generations. William, a chief of the family, who was Sheriff of Invernairn, and died about 1220, is believed to have been the first to assume the surname "de Moravia" or Moray. From him descended the Morays, Lords of Bothwell, the Morays of Abercairney, and Sir William de Moravia, ancestor of the Dukes of Atholl of the present day.

Of the younger branches the Lords of Bothwell made a great name during the Wars of Succession and Independence. The sixth chief, Sir Andrew Moray of Bothwell, was the first to join the patriot Wallace when he raised his standard. When the other barons deserted the national cause he alone remained steadfast. Along with Wallace he acted as Governor of Scotland, and after the battle of Stirling Bridge, where he was grievously wounded, he signed along with Wallace the famous letter, still extant, to the free city of Lubeck, which declared the



ports of Scotland open to foreign commerce. His son, another Sir Andrew, was not less distinguished for his support to the cause of King Robert the Bruce. He married Christian, a sister of that King, and after the overthrow of the Regent Earl of Mar at Duplin, was appointed Regent by the Scottish Parliament. He was a prisoner in England at the time of the battle of Halidon Hill, but obtained his freedom in time to march to the relief of his wife, who was bravely defending Kildrummy Castle, one of the four strongholds which alone in Scotland held out for David Bruce against Edward Baliol and Edward III. Curiously enough the besieger on that occasion was David Hastings, Earl of Atholl, a title which, in later days, was to become a distinction of the Morays. In the upshot Hastings was overthrown and slain at the battle of Kilblene on St. Andrew's Day, 1335. It was in the same campaign that Sir Andrew Moray, besieging Lochindorb, was almost surprised by the English, and reassured his men, first by insisting upon completion of the service of Mass which he was hearing, and then by delaying to mend a strap of his armour which had been broken, then led his force out of danger in good time through the wild passes of the Findhorn. On the death of Thomas Moray, of Bothwell, the estates of this branch passed to his daughter Joanna and her husband, Archibald the Grim, Lord of Galloway and third Earl of Douglas, the natural son of the Good Sir James of Douglas.

The Morays of Abercairney still own their ancestral estate in Strathearn. It was saved for them on one occasion by the stratagem of a retainer. Moray of Abercairney was preparing to join the rebellion of Prince Charles Edward, when, as he was drawing on his boots, his butler dashed a kettleful of boiling water about his legs, with the exclamation, "Let them fecht wha will, bide ye at hame and be laird of Abercairney."

The main line of the Morays, however, was represented by Sir John de Moravia, Sheriff of Perth in the time of William the Lion, 1165-1214. The son of this individual is named in a charter of 1284, "Dominus Malcomus de Moravia, Miles, Vicecomes de Perth." The successor of the latter, Sir William de Moravia, married Ada, daughter of Malise, Earl or Seneschal of Strathearn, and got with her the lands of Tullibardine in that district, from which his descendants took their title. In the same way another daughter of the Seneschal of Strathearn married the chief of the Grahams, bringing him the estate

of Kincardine, adjoining that of Tullibardine in Strath-earn, and becoming the mother of the great Scottish hero, Sir John the Graham, the friend of Sir William Wallace, and ancestor of the great house of Montrose.

The son of Sir William de Moravia and Ada of Strath-earn was Andrew Murray of Tullibardine. It was he who in 1332 helped Edward Baliol to win the battle of Duplin by fixing a stake to mark the ford in the Earn, through which Baliol's army passed to surprise and route the Scottish host under the Regent Mar. For this, when he was made prisoner two months later, Murray was put to death. He left a son, however, and his descendant Sir John, the twelfth Murray of Tullibardine, was Master of the Household and a member of the Privy Council of James VI. In 1604 he was made Lord Murray of Tullibardine, and two years later Earl of Tullibardine. His son, William, the second Earl, had the good fortune, along with his cousin David, Viscount Stormont, when a very young man, to help in the rescue of James VI. at Perth, when the Earl of Gowrie is said to have attempted his life. For this he was made hereditary Sheriff of Perthshire. He married the Lady Dorothea Stewart, eldest daughter of John, fifth Earl of Atholl. By this marriage the Murrays became inheritors of a title which had an interesting story. On the overthrow of the Black Douglas in the middle of the fifteenth century, James II. had married Margaret, the Fair Maid of Galloway, heiress of that great house, to his own half-brother, John Stewart, son of the Black Knight of Lorne and Queen Joan, widow of James I. This pair the King made Lord and Lady Balvenie, and afterwards Earl and Countess of Atholl, and their direct descendant was the fifth Earl of Atholl, whose eldest daughter carried the title and estates to the house of Tullibardine.

Earl William arranged that the earldoms of Atholl and Tullibardine should go respectively to his son and his brother Patrick, but on the death of Earl Patrick's son the earldom of Tullibardine came back to the main line.

The second Murray Earl of Atholl, to whom the Tullibardine title thus returned, was a strong supporter of the cause of Charles I. during the civil wars. The Marquess of Montrose was received by him at Blair Castle in 1644; and he raised no fewer than eighteen hundred men to fight for the King. It was this addition to his forces which enabled Montrose to win his early victory at Tibbermuir. Atholl's son also, in 1653, brought no



fewer than two thousand men to the royal standard when it was raised by the Earl of Glencairn. These were the Atholl men who swooped down upon the Argyll country and struck an effective blow against the influence of the Covenanting Marquess of Argyll, then at the head of the Scottish Government. By way of return one of Cromwell's officers, Colonel Daniel, penetrated the Atholl fastnesses, took Blair Castle by storm, and blew it up. It was for these services and sufferings that in 1676, after the Restoration, the Earl was made a Knight of the Thistle and raised to the dignity of Marquess of Atholl. Sixteen years later, however, the Revolution took place, and then, possibly owing to his wife's relationship with the House of Nassau, Atholl took the side of William of Orange. An officer belonging to the Jacobite army of Viscount Dundee seized Blair Castle, and refused to deliver it to the owner's son, and it was to attempt the reduction of the stronghold that General MacKay set out on his march with the Government forces through the Grampian passes. Dundee, who had come to the help of the garrison, was ready for him, and as the Government troops emerged from the narrow gorge at Killiecrankie he swooped down upon them, cut them to pieces, and himself fell in the moment of victory.

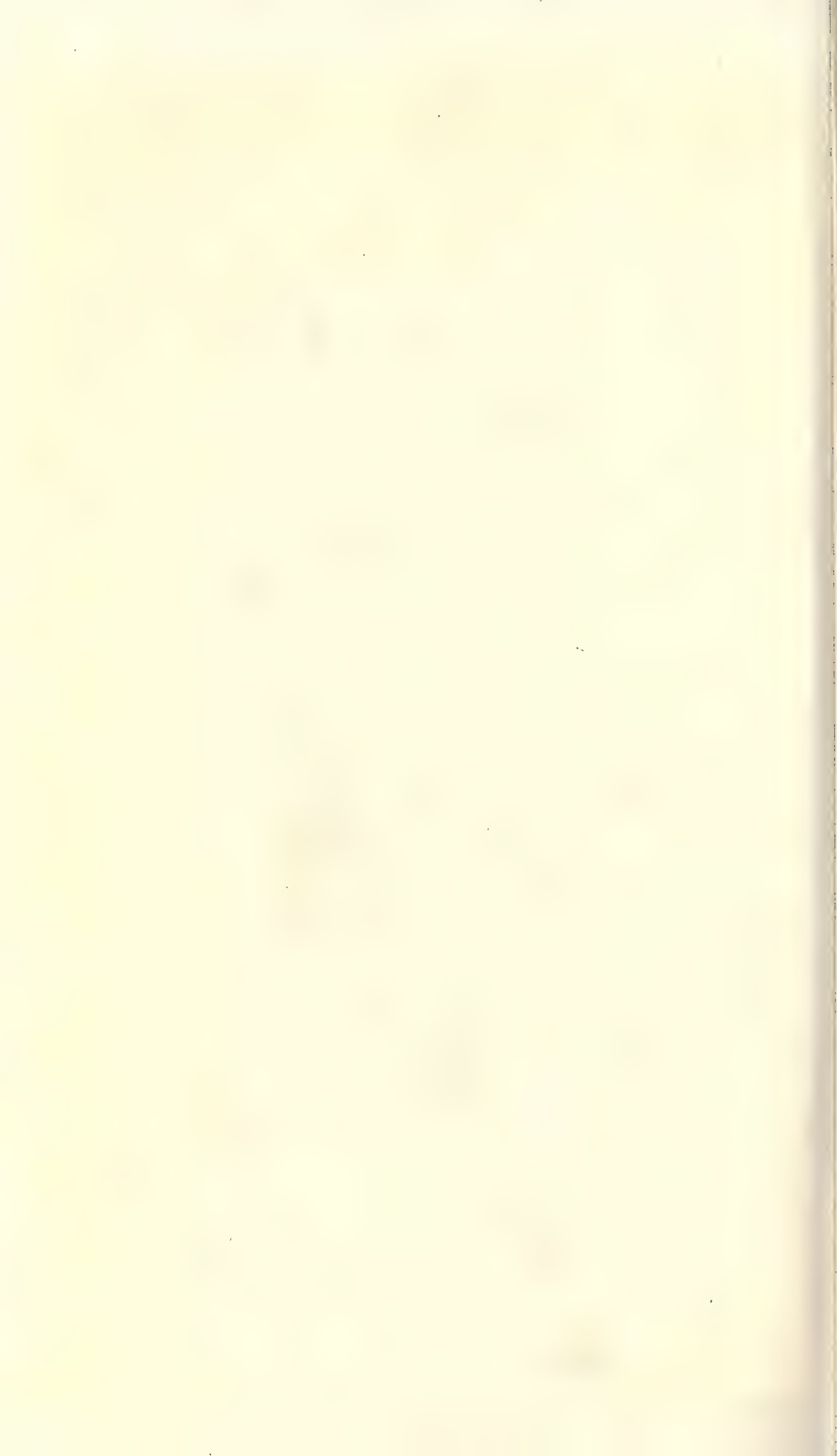
The first Marquess of Atholl married Lady Amelia Sophia Stanley, only daughter of James, seventh Earl of Derby, by his wife, Charlotte de la Tremouille. This lady was the famous Countess of Derby who defended Latham House against the army of the Parliament in 1644, and for her energetic protection of the Isle of Man in 1651 figures in Sir Walter Scott's *Peveril of the Peak*. Her mother was a daughter of the Prince of Orange, and she could trace descent from the Greek emperors of Constantinople in the eleventh century. It was in commemoration of the marriage of the Marquess of Atholl with the daughter of the House of Derby that the name of Stanley was given to the well-known village between Perth and Dunkeld.

While the eldest son of this marriage succeeded to the Atholl titles, the second son, Charles, was created Earl of Dunmore, and became ancestor of the distinguished family bearing that title. The fourth son, William, having married Margaret, daughter of the first Lord Nairne, became the second lord of that name. He was out in "the '15," and his son, the Honourable John Nairne, was out in "the '45"; but the title was restored in 1824 to the latter's grandson, whose wife was the





TULLIBARDINE KIRK, ANCIENT BURYING-PLACE OF THE MURRAYS



famous singer of the lost Jacobite cause, Carolina Oliphant, Lady Nairne.

The second Marquess was created Duke of Atholl in 1703. Partly no doubt because of his mother's descent from the House of Nassau, he supported the cause of William of Orange; but he was a strong opponent of the union between Scotland and England, and the Jacobite influence was strong in his family, so his sons played striking parts in the story of the Jacobite rebellions of their time. His second son, William, who, on the death of an elder brother, became Marquess of Tullibardine, was one of the first to join the Earl of Mar in 1715. For this he was attainted, but escaped abroad. He returned to Scotland with the Spanish forces, took part in the battle of Glenshiel in 1719, and again escaped. Twenty-six years later he came again to Scotland with Prince Charles Edward. After Culloden he made his way to the shores of Loch Lomond, where, being taken prisoner by Buchanan, Laird of Drumakil, he hurled a curse upon the latter's house which, according to local tradition, took effect for three generations. Eventually he was carried to London, where he died in the Tower in 1746. Charles, the Duke's fourth son, commanded a Jacobite regiment in 1715, was captured at Preston, and sentenced to be shot, but was afterwards reprieved. Most distinguished of all was Lord George Murray, the Duke's fifth son. Wounded at the battle of Glenshiel in 1719, he escaped abroad and served in the Sardinian army, but obtained a pardon and returned home. He joined Prince Charles in 1745, and, as Lieutenant-General of the Jacobite army, was the real commander at the battles of Preston, Falkirk, and Culloden. Notwithstanding various accusations which have been made against him, he was without doubt the ablest leader on the Prince's side, and, had his suggestions been followed, a different turn might have been given to the later history of the House of Stewart. As it was, his eldest son succeeded as third Duke of Atholl.

Meanwhile James, third son of the first Duke, had succeeded to the titles, and on the death of the tenth Earl of Derby without issue had inherited the Stanley barony of Strange as well as the Kingship of the Isle of Man, which had been granted to Sir John de Stanley by King Henry IV. in 1406. The lordship of the Isle of Man had formerly been an appanage of the Scottish crown, but was seized during the Wars of Succession by Edward I. of England. There was an element of justice, therefore, in its return to the possession of a great Scottish house.



The existence of an independent kingship within the British Isles, however, became an anomaly, and in 1765 it was purchased from John, third Duke of Atholl, by the British Government for £70,000. Further payments were subsequently made for the family's landed and other interests in the island, and the entire sum ultimately amounted to nearly half a million sterling, which may be regarded as the redemption money for the seizure made by Edward I. as Hammer of the Scots.

It was in the time of this second Duke that the larch was introduced to Scotland and to the ducal estates from the Tyrol in 1738. Five larch plants were brought to Dunkeld, and a few others to Blair Atholl and Monzie. The species had not previously been looked upon as a suitable forest tree for Scotland, as it was thought to be far too tender for the climate. Of the five trees planted at Dunkeld, two are still to be seen near the eastern end of the cathedral. In 1839 two of the others were felled. One, containing 168 cubic feet of wood, was sold where it lay to Leith shipbuilders for £25 4s.; the other, containing 147 cubic feet, was sent to Woolwich, and used as beams in the repair of the store-ship *Serapis*. These marked the beginning of great tree-planting operations in the Atholl district, and before 1821 some nine thousand acres had been placed under wood, converting a barren district into valuable forest land, and rendering much of the previously waste country between the plantations available for natural pasture.

The son of the second Duke of Atholl died before his father, and John Murray, who succeeded as third Duke, was the eldest son of Lord George Murray, Lieutenant-General of the Jacobite forces in "the '45." He married the only surviving daughter of the second Duke, and with her inherited the barony of Strange and the sovereignty of the Isle of Man, which latter he disposed of as already mentioned. It was his eldest son, the fourth Duke, who was the famous improver of the Atholl estates, and to him is attributed the saying "aye be putting in a tree, it will be growing while ye're sleeping." It was he who finally disposed of the family property and privileges in the Isle of Man to the Crown for the sum of £409,000. And he also began the building of the new palace at Dunkeld, which was designed to be one of the most magnificent residences in Scotland, but was never completed. The park about it he converted into one of the finest landscape gardens, planning it to include a famous home farm, American gardens, and carriage drives thirty miles in

extent. It was he who received the poet Robert Burns at Blair Castle, and of whose hospitality and pleasant family circle the poet has left so charming a picture. His second son was created Lord Glenlyon in 1821. The second Lord Glenlyon succeeded as sixth Duke. His mother was the second daughter of the second Duke of Northumberland, and his only son was the late holder of the dukedom, who succeeded in 1864.

Needless to say, the House of Atholl and the great family of Moray or Murray have always played a striking and strenuous part in the history of the country. Their feuds with their neighbours have not been so numerous as those of many other clans, but one at least was long continued and included one of the most tragic episodes in clan warfare. It was the feud between the Murrays of Auchtertyre and the Drummonds in Strathearn. A mutual jealousy existed for centuries between the two families, and it came to a head in 1490, when Murray of Auchtertyre was induced to poind certain cattle belonging to the Drummonds, for payment of a debt demanded by the Abbot of Inchaffray. In revenge, William, Master of Drummond, son of the first Lord Drummond, led an attack against the Murrays. In the battle at Knockmary near Crieff the Murrays were at first successful, but the Drummonds, being reinforced, finally drove them off the field. The fugitives took refuge in the little kirk of Monzievaird, on the spot where the Mausoleum now stands in the park of Auchtertyre, and for a time the pursuers could not find them. But a too zealous Murray clansman, seeing his chance, shot an arrow from the kirk and killed a Drummond; whereupon the Drummonds heaped combustibles round the little fane, and burned it with all it contained to ashes. Eight score Murrays were included in the holocaust, only one of those within the kirk escaping by the compassion of a Drummond clansman outside, who was his relation, and who, for his kindness, had to flee from the wrath of his own clansmen to Ireland for a time.

Blair Atholl itself, we have seen, had also its own tale of storm and battle. The oldest part of Blair Castle is known as Comyn's Tower, having been built, it is said, by John Comyn de Strathbogie, who enjoyed the Atholl title in right of his wife. From its builder's time downwards the stronghold stood many a siege. Its last experience of this kind was in March, 1746, when Sir Andrew Agnew defended it against the Jacobites, then on their way north to their last struggle at Culloden. Some



curious details of the siege on this occasion are given in the *Scots Magazine* for 1808. Many a famous visitor has been entertained within these walls, as well as at Dunkeld lower in the pass, where the Dukes of Atholl also have a seat. Queen Victoria and Prince Albert visited Dunkeld House in 1842, and in 1844 the Royal Family spent some weeks at Blair Castle. On these occasions the illustrious visitors were received at the boundary of the property by a guard of Atholl Highlanders several hundreds in number, and to the present hour this body remains in existence. It has been called the only private army in the British Isles, and when it turns out on great occasions under the command of the Duke of Atholl it forms indeed a notable sight to see.

The late seventh Duke was Lord-Lieutenant of the County of Perth from 1878. As a young man he was a captain in the Scots Fusilier Guards, and was afterwards Colonel of the 3rd Battalion of the Black Watch. During the South African War he raised 1,200 men for the Scottish Horse, and sent them out to the command of his son, the Marquess of Tullibardine. From material in the family charter room he compiled for private circulation five volumes of *Chronicles of the Atholl and Tullibardine Families*.

The present Duke is one of the most active men of affairs in the country. While still Marquess of Tullibardine, he won distinction in many fields. Holding a commission in the Royal Horse Guards, he served with the Egyptian Cavalry as Staff Officer to Colonel Broadwood during the Nile expedition of 1898, and took part in the battles of the Atbara and Khartoum, when he was mentioned twice in despatches, and received the D.S.O. He also served in the South African War, first with the Royal Dragoons and afterwards as Lieutenant-Colonel commanding the 1st and 2nd Scottish Horse, which regiment he had himself raised. For his share in this campaign he was mentioned three times in despatches, received the Queen's and the King's medal, and was made M.V.O. For service in the great war of 1914 he raised two additional regiments of Scottish Horse for the formation of a Highland Mounted Brigade, and is Commandant of the Scottish Horse and a Brigadier-General. He also had a distinguished career as Member of Parliament for Perthshire, and there is no more popular peer north of the Border. Since the war he has raised £140,000 for a Scottish National War Memorial; he has acted as Lord



High Commissioner to the General Assembly, and has held the post of Lord Chamberlain in the Royal Household.

## SEPTS OF CLAN MURRAY

MacMurray  
Rattray  
Spalding

Moray  
Small

## CLAN OGILVY

BADGE : Seorsa luibh (anchusa) evergreen alkanet.

THE Siol Gillichriosd, or Gilchrist—the Race of Gilchrist, claims descent from a Maormor of Angus of that name, one of the seven great hereditary chiefs of Scottish districts who bore this designation. When the title of Maormor came to be replaced by that of Earl in the time of David I., Gillibride, son of Gilchrist, became Earl of Angus. While the Earl's eldest son succeeded to his father's title, and the second, Magnus, inherited, through his mother, the Earldom of Caithness, the third son, Gilbert, became ancestor of the Ogilvies. By Gaelic enthusiasts the name is taken to mean a fair or yellow-haired young man—Gille-Bhuidhe, but it is more likely to be derived from lands so called, of which Gilbert received a charter in 1172. There is a Glen Ogilvie in the parish of Glamis, the Ogilvie country at the present day.

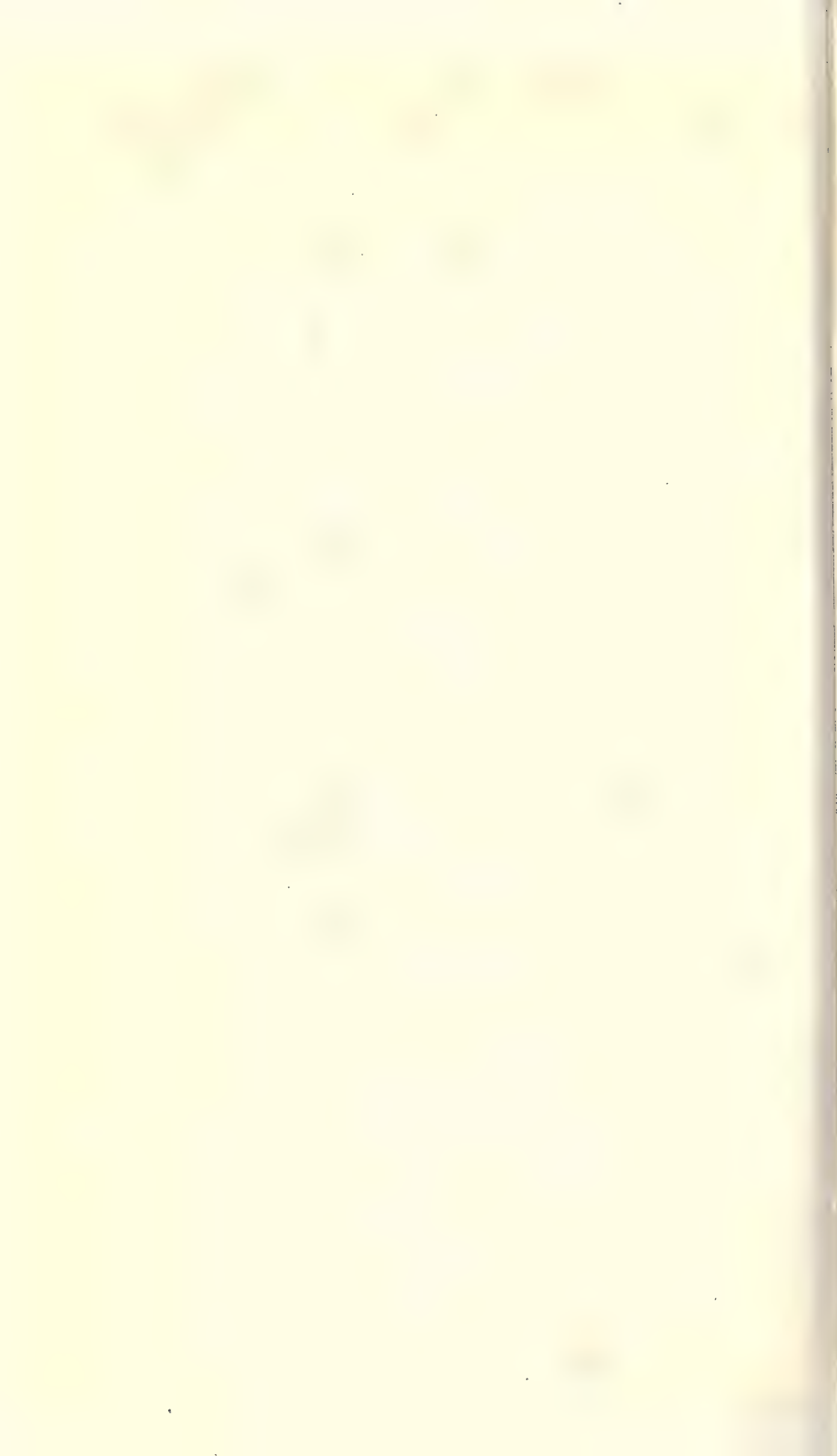
Gilbert's descendant, Sir Patrick de Ogilvie of Western Powrie, was a steady adherent of King Robert the Bruce, and received from him a charter of the lands of Kettins in Forfarshire. From his elder son Alexander descended the Ogilvies of that ilk, now long extinct. The younger son, Patrick, obtained from his nephew, Sir Patrick of Ogilvie, the family estate of Western Powrie, and by marriage with Marjory, heiress of Ramsay of Auchterhouse, added that estate to his possessions. His son, Walter Ogilvy, on the death of his uncle, Sir Malcolm Ramsay, in 1365, succeeded to the hereditary Sherifffdom of Forfar. He is said also to have acquired the barony of Cortachy in 1369, and it was his second son and heir, Sir Walter Ogilvy of Auchterhouse, Sheriff of Forfar, in whose person the family first made its way into the limelight of history.

The incident took place in 1391. King Robert II. had only succeeded to the throne in the previous August, and the rule of Scotland was practically in the hands of his unscrupulous brother, Robert, Earl of Fife, better known by his later title of Duke of Albany. Another of



OGILVIE





the King's brothers, Alexander, Earl of Buchan, himself better known as the Wolf of Badenoch, had already shown his contempt for all authority by plundering the lands of the Bishop of Moray, and burning the Bishop's Cathedral and town of Elgin. Forthwith, following his father's example, the "Wolf's" natural son, Duncan Stewart, at the head of a raiding host of the Robertson clan and others, suddenly burst out of the Grampians and proceeded to plunder, burn, and slay in the shire of Angus. Ogilvy of Auchterhouse, as Sheriff, promptly gathered his people, and with Sir Patrick Gray and Sir David Lindsay of Glenesk, came up with the raiders at Glen Brierachan, eleven miles north of Gasklune. Though much inferior in numbers, he did not hesitate to attack. But, though clad in steel, he and his little party were no match for the fierce caterans. And while Ogilvy and his half-brother, with other lairds and some sixty followers were slain, Gray and Lindsay were grievously wounded, and only with difficulty carried from the field.

The gallant Sheriff's eldest son, Sir Alexander Ogilvy of Auchterhouse, was "the gracious gude Lord Ogilvy" of the Ballad of Harlaw:

For faith and magnanimity  
He had few fellows in the field,  
Yet fell by fatal destiny,  
For he nae ways wad grant to yield.

In that tremendous conflict north of Aberdeen against Donald of the Isles in 1411, Sir Alexander and his eldest son, George Ogilvy, were among the slain.

The line of Sir Alexander's next son, Sir Patrick, ended with his granddaughter, who married James Stewart, Earl of Buchan, half-brother of King James II. His next son, Sir Andrew of Inchmartin, was ancestor of the second Earl of Findlater (son-in-law of the first Earl), who in strict line of blood carried on the Chieftainship of the Clan. His descendant, the fourth Earl, was the distinguished Scottish statesman of the days of William and Mary, and Queen Anne, and on his own merits was created Earl of Seafield. That line ended, however, at the death of the seventh Earl of Findlater and fourth Earl of Seafield, when the latter title passed to the son of his aunt, who had married the Chief of the Grants.

Meanwhile, Sir Walter, younger brother of the "gracious gude Lord Ogilvy," had acquired the estate of Eintrathen by marriage with an heiress, it is believed, of the Durward family, and had become High Treasurer

of Scotland under James I. Among his transactions he conveyed to his youngest brother John the estate of Inverquharity. John's son, Alexander Ogilvy of Inverquharity, by marriage and purchase acquired many valuable estates, and was an excellent man of affairs. In the end this ability was his undoing, and the tragic event in which he was concerned came within measurable distance of effecting the complete ruin of the Ogilvies. It was in 1445, when the House of Stewart was still fighting for its sovereignty against an array of turbulent nobles, and the lawlessness of the latter had not yet been brought to an end by the decisive action of James II. It happened that the wealthy monastery of Arbroath had appointed Alexander Lindsay, afterwards to be known as the Tiger Earl of Crawford, or Earl Beardie, to be their Justiciar. Finding that ferocious personage a somewhat expensive and troublesome protector, they deposed him and appointed Ogilvy of Inverquharity Justiciar in his place. To avenge the insult and repossess himself of the lucrative office, Lindsay mustered his vassals, and, reinforced by a large party of the Douglasses, appeared before Arbroath. Ogilvy also gathered his friends and followers, and was helped by Sir Alexander Seton of Gordon, afterwards Earl of Huntly, who happened at the moment to be a guest at his house, and obliged by an ancient Scottish custom to fight for his host so long as the food he had eaten under his roof remained in his stomach. As the two forces faced each other, Lindsay's father, the old Earl of Crawford, anxious to prevent bloodshed, came galloping between the lines. A common soldier, unaware of his rank, and annoyed at his interference, shot him dead. This greatly infuriated the Lindsays, who, rushing fiercely to the attack, cut the Ogilvies to pieces. The latter made such a gallant resistance that nearly every man fell, including Inverquharity himself, and Seton only narrowly escaped. Lindsay then proceeded to lay waste the Ogilvy country, burning, slaying, and plundering throughout the district. The house of Inverquharity, however, survived the disaster, and in 1626 was raised to the rank of baronetcy, which it still enjoys, though its original patrimony was disposed of in the eighteenth century, and its seat is now Baldovan, near Dundee.

At the same time the elder line of Lintrathen was also advancing in possessions and power. The son of the Treasurer acquired the lands and castle of Eroly or Airlie in 1459, and his son, Sir James Ogilvie of Airlie, who was sent as Ambassador to Denmark in 1491, was made a Lord





*Photo. Wm. Ritchie & Sons, Ltd.*

INVERQUHARITY CASTLE, ANCIENT STRONGHOLD  
OF THE OGILVIES



of Parliament as Lord Ogilvy in that year. The second Lord Ogilvie of Airlie married a sister of the first Earl of Montrose, and the third married Margaret, daughter of David, eighth Earl of Crawford. The fourth Lord's eldest son fell at Pinkie in 1547, and the seventh Lord was made Earl of Airlie by Charles I. in 1639.

A year earlier Lord Ogilvy of Deskford, representative of the second son of the High Treasurer of James I.'s time, had been made Earl of Findlater, so that the Ogilvies had now two Earldoms to their name.

The Earl of Airlie was a devoted Royalist, who, joining the little army of the Marquess of Montrose, distinguished himself highly at that leader's crowning victory, the battle of Kilsyth. He and his family suffered severely for their adherence to the cause of Charles I. In 1640 the Earl of Argyll, head of the Covenanting Party, procured a commission from the Committee of Estates to proceed with fire and sword against those who had not signed the Covenant, and who were therefore termed "enemies to religion." This commission he proceeded to turn to account for the destruction of families whom he considered unfriendly to his own. Among them were the Ogilvies. The Earl of Airlie was in England at the time, but his house was in the keeping of his eldest son, Lord Ogilvy, when it and Forthar, another seat of the family, were taken, pillaged, and burned by Argyll. Lady Ogilvy, it is said, was near confinement at the time, and begged for delay upon that account, but Argyll refused, and turned her out remorselessly. The incident is commemorated in the well-known ballad, "The Bonnie House o' Airlie." By way of reprisal, when Montrose took the field, with the Earl of Airlie in his company, they crossed the Ochils and burned Argyll's own stronghold of Castle Campbell, above Dollar, which still remains as they left it, a ruin. Airlie's second son, Sir Thomas Ogilvy, raised a regiment for the Royal cause, and fell at the battle of Inverlochy, where Argyll, taking refuge in his galley, saw his forces cut to pieces by Montrose. In the autumn of the same year, when Montrose suffered his first and last defeat at Philiphaugh, below Selkirk, Airlie's eldest son James was taken prisoner. While the Covenanters were butchering and hanging at Newark and elsewhere the captives they had taken, Ogilvy was sentenced to execution at St. Andrews, but on the night before the sentence was to be carried out he made a romantic escape in the attire which his sister managed to exchange with him.

A member of the clan took part in another romantic



event of that time. George Ogilvy of Barras was governor of Dunnottar Castle when that stronghold was besieged by Cromwell's troops, and it was by his connivance that the wife of the neighbouring minister of Kinneff saved the Scottish regalia by carrying it through the English army in a bundle of flax.

In 1715, when the Earl of Mar took arms for Queen Anne's brother as "James VIII. and III.," he was joined by James, Lord Ogilvy, elder son of the third Earl, and after the collapse of the rebellion at Sheriffmuir he was attainted. He received a pardon from the Crown in 1725, but was not enabled to assume the family honours. On his death without issue, however, in 1731, his younger brother John assumed the title as fourth Earl, Lord Ogilvie having been attainted before the death of his father, the third Earl, in 1717. The family and clan, nevertheless, remained strongly Jacobite; and after the landing of Prince Charles Edward in 1745 the Earl's eldest son, David, Lord Ogilvy, joined the Prince at Edinburgh with a following of 600 men, chiefly of his own name. After the final overthrow of the cause at Culloden he escaped through Norway and Sweden to France, where he commanded a regiment known as "Ogilvy's," and rose to the rank of lieutenant-general. His wife was imprisoned after Culloden, but also escaped to France. Meanwhile, also in his father's lifetime, he had been attainted, and though he received a pardon in 1778, and a Parliamentary removal of his disabilities in 1783, he was not empowered to assume the honours of his house. His son, titular Earl of Airlie, died unmarried in 1812. Thereupon the Earldom was claimed by Walter Ogilvie, younger son of the fourth Earl, but the English judges who were consulted by the House of Lords were of opinion that the attainders of his brother and uncle, though both of them had taken place before they could inherit the titles and estates, operated against him. It was not till 1826 that Parliament confirmed and restored the family honours to his eldest surviving son, who was then acknowledged as David, sixth Earl of Airlie.

The seventh Earl was a Knight of the Thistle, a representative peer, and Lord High Commissioner to the Church of Scotland from 1872 to 1878. The eighth Earl, who was lieutenant-colonel of the 12th Lancers, took part in the Egyptian war, and was killed in action in the South African War, at Diamond Hill, near Pretoria, in 1900, after gallantly leading his regiment in a successful charge which saved the guns. The present Earl is his eldest son. The

family estates comprise most of the old Ogilvy country, and extend far up the Grampian glens, while the chief seat is Cortachy Castle, overlooking the lovely and fertile valley of Strathmore.

## SEPTS OF CLAN OGILVY

Airlie  
Gilchrist  
MacGilchrist

## CLAN ROSE

BADGE: Ros-mhairi fiadhaich (Andromeda media) wild rosemary.

As with many other clans of the north, the origin of the Roses of Kilravock has been the subject of considerable debate. It has been urged that the name is derived from the Gaelic "Ros," a promontory, in the same way as that of the Rosses farther north; but in Douglas's *Baronage* the similarity of the coat armour of the chiefs to that of the Rooses or Roses of Normandy and England is taken as evidence that the race was of Saxon origin, and in his account of the house in *Sketches of Early Scottish History*, Mr. Cosmo Innes, who was closely connected with the family, and had made an exhaustive study of its charters and other documents, supports the Norman source. Innes declares the history of the house written in 1683-4 by Mr. Hew Rose, parson of Nairn, to be a careful and generally very correct statement of the pedigree of the family.

The original patrimony of the Roses appears to have been the lands of Geddes in the county of Inverness. In the days of Alexander II., as early as 1219, Hugh Rose of Geddes appears as a witness to the founding of the Priory of Beaulieu, now Beaulieu. The founders of that priory were the Byssets, at that time one of the great houses of the north, the downfall of whose family forms one of the strangest stories of Alexander's reign. The incident is detailed in Wyntoun's *Chronicle*. In 1242, after a great tournament at Haddington, Patrick, the young Earl of Atholl, was treacherously murdered and "burnt to coals" in his lodging at the west end of that town. Suspicion fell upon the Byssets, who were at bitter feud with the house of Atholl. Sir William Bysset had just entertained the King and Queen at his castle of Aboyne, and on the night of the murder had sat late at supper with the Queen in Forfar. In vain the Queen offered to swear his innocence. In vain Bysset himself had the murderers cursed "Wyth buk and bell," and offered to prove his innocence by the ordeal of battle. All men believed him guilty. The Byssets saw their lands harried utterly of goods and cattle, and before the fury of the powerful kinsmen of Atholl, they were finally





ROSE



banished the Kingdom. Sir John de Bysset, however, had left three daughters, the eldest of whom inherited the lands of Lovat and Beaufort, and became ancestress of the Frasers, while the youngest inherited Redcastle in the Black Isle and Kilravock on the River Nairn, and married Sir Andrew de Bosco. Mary, one of the daughters of this latter union, married Hugh Rose of Geddes, and brought him the lands of Kilravock and of Culcowie in the Black Isle as her marriage portion. This was at the latter end of the reign of Alexander III., and from that day to this the Roses have been lairds of Kilravock in unbroken succession.

No house in Scotland seems to have kept more carefully its charters and family papers from the earliest times, and from these Cosmo Innes derived many interesting facts for his sketch of the intimate customs and history of this old Scottish family.

From a very early time, even before there is evidence of their lands having been erected into a feudal barony, the Roses were known as Barons of Kilravock. They were never a leading family in the country. The heads of the house preferred to lead a quiet life, and though by marriage and otherwise they acquired and held for many generations considerable territories in Ross-shire and in the valleys of the Nairn and the Findhorn, we find them emerging only occasionally into the limelight of history. For the most part the Roses intermarried with substantial families of their own rank. William, son of the first Rose of Kilravock, married Morella or Muriel, daughter of Alexander de Doun, and Andrew, his second son, became ancestor of the Roses of Auchlossan in Mar. William's grandson, Hugh, again, married Janet, daughter of Sir Robert Chisholm, Constable of Urquhart Castle, who brought her husband large possessions in Strathnairn. This chief's grandson, John, also, who succeeded in 1431, married Isabella, daughter of Cheyne, laird of Esslemont in Aberdeenshire, and further secured his position by procuring from the King a feudal charter *de novo* of all his lands. It was John's son Hugh who built the existing old tower of Kilravock in 1460, and his energy, or his need for protection, is shown by the fact, recorded as marvellous, that he finished it within a year.

The family at this time was at serious variance with one of its most powerful neighbours, the Thane of Cawdor. This Thane's father, six years earlier, had built the present keep of Cawdor Castle, and Thane William himself had made one of the best matches of his time by marrying a daughter of Alexander Sutherland of Dunbeath, whose



wife was a daughter of one of the Lords of the Isles. Thane William was an ambitious man. He had his estates changed into a Crown holding by resigning them into the hands of the King and procuring a new charter, and, to make sure of the permanence of his family, he set aside with a pension his eldest son, William, who had some personal defect, and settled the whole thanedom and heritage of the family on his second son, John, whom, to close the feud between the families, he married to Isabella, daughter of Rose of Kilravock. The marriage, however, was not happy, and out of it arose one of the most curious romances of the north.

The young Thane John did not long survive his marriage; he died in 1498, leaving as sole heiress to the Cawdor estates an infant daughter, Muriel. The old Thane, William, and his four sons were naturally furious. They did their best to have Muriel declared illegitimate; but their efforts were useless. By reason of the new charter the child was a ward of the Crown, and the Earl of Argyll, who was then Justiciar of Scotland, procured her wardship and marriage from James IV. The Roses were no doubt glad to have the keeping of the child entrusted to so powerful a guardian, but old Lady Kilravock was evidently not without her doubts as to the good faith of Muriel's new protector. When the Earl's emissary, Campbell of Inverliver, arrived at Kilravock to convey the child south to Loch Awe, the old lady is said to have thrust the key of her coffer into the fire, and branded Muriel with it on the thigh.

Inverliver had not gone far on his way to the south when he was overtaken by the child's four uncles and their following. With shrewd ability he devised a stratagem. Sending Muriel off hotfoot through the hills under a small guard, he dressed a stook of corn in her clothes, placed it where it could be seen by the enemy, and proceeded to give battle with the greater part of his force. Seven of his sons, it is said, fell before he gave way, and even then he only retired when he felt sure the child was far beyond the reach of pursuit. When someone afterwards asked whether he thought the prize worth such sacrifice, and suggested that the heiress might die before reaching womanhood, he is said to have replied, "Muriel of Cawdor will never die as long as there's a red-haired lassie on the shores of Loch Awe." Muriel, however, survived, and indeed lived to a good old age. The Earl of Argyll married her when twelve years old to his second son, Sir John Campbell, and the Earls of Cawdor of the present day are directly descended from the pair.

Hugh Rose of Kilravock, grandson of him who built the tower, for some reason now unknown seized William Galbraith, Abbot of Kinloss, and imprisoned him at Kilravock. For this he was himself arrested and kept long a prisoner in Dunbarton Castle, then commanded by Sir George Stirling of Glorat. A deed is extant by which, while a prisoner, in June, 1536, the laird engaged a burgess of Paisley as a gardener for Kilravock—"Thom Daeson and ane servand man with him is comyn man and servand for all his life to the said Huchion."

The next laird was known as the Black Baron. He lived in the troublous time of the Reformation, and in his youth he fought and was made prisoner at Pinkiecleugh; yet he managed to pay his ransom, 100 angels, and to provide portions for his seventeen sisters and daughters, built the manor place beside his ancient tower, and reigned as laird of Kilravock for more than fifty years. It was in his time that Queen Mary paid her visit to Kilravock. The Castle of Inverness, of which the Earl of Huntly was keeper, had closed its gates against her and her half-brother, whom she had just made Earl of Moray, and the Queen, while preparing to storm the stronghold, took up her quarters at Kilravock. Here possibly it was that she made the famous remark that she "repented she was not a man, to know what life it was to lie all night in the fields, or walk the rounds with a Jack and knapskull." A few days later, overawed by her preparations, the captain of Inverness Castle surrendered and was hanged, and shortly afterwards the Queen defeated Huntly himself at Corrichie, and brought the great rebellion in the north to an end.

The Black Baron of Kilravock was justice depute of the north under Argyll, sheriff of Inverness and constable of its castle under Queen Mary, and commissioner for the Regent Moray. He lived to be summoned to Parliament by James VI. in 1593.

In the time of the eleventh and twelfth Barons we have pictures of Kilravock as a happy family house, where sons and grandsons were educated and brought up in kindly, wise, and hospitable fashion. The thirteenth baron, who died young in 1649, was well skilled in music, vocal and instrumental. Hugh, the fourteenth baron, lived through the trying times of Charles II. and James VII., but, though sharing his wife's warm sympathy with the persecuted Covenanters, managed himself to avoid the persecutions of his time. The fifteenth baron, again, educated in a licentious age, began life as a supporter of the divine right of kings, but afterwards admitted the



justice and necessity of the Revolution. He voted against the Act of Union, but declared openly for the Protestant Succession, and, after the Union, was appointed one of the Scottish Commissioners to the first Parliament of Great Britain. On the outbreak of the Earl of Mar's rebellion in 1715 he stood firm for King George's Government, armed two hundred of his clan, kept the peace in his country side, and maintained Kilravock Castle as a refuge for persons in dread of harm by the Jacobites. He even planned to reduce the Jacobite garrison at Inverness, and, along with Forbes of Culloden and Lord Lovat, blockaded the town. His brother, Arthur Rose, who had but lately been ransomed from slavery with the pirates of Algiers, and whose portrait in Turkish dress may still be seen at Kilravock, tried to seize the garrison. At the head of a small party he made his way to the Tolbooth, but was betrayed by his guide. As Rose pushed past the door, sword in hand, the fellow called out "An enemy! an enemy!" Upon this the guard rushed forward, shot him through the body, and crushed the life out of him between the door and the wall. On hearing of his brother's end, Kilravock sent a message to the garrison, ordering it to leave the place, or he would lay the town in ashes, and so assured were the governor and magistrates that he would keep his word that they evacuated the town and castle during the night, and he entered and took possession next day.

In 1704 Kilravock's following was stated as five hundred men, but in 1725 General Wade estimated it at no more than three hundred.

In 1734 the sixteenth baron was returned to Parliament for Ross-shire, and he might have been elected again, but preferred the pleasures of country life. He built the house of Coulmonie on the Findhorn, and married Elizabeth Clephane, daughter of a soldier of fortune, and friend of the Countess of Sutherland. He was engaged in the quiet life of a country gentleman, hawking and shooting and fishing, when in 1745 the storm of Jacobite rebellion again swept over the country. Two days before the battle of Culloden, Prince Charles Edward rode out from Inverness to bring in his outposts on the Spey, which were retiring before Cumberland's army, and he spent an hour or two at Kilravock Castle. He kissed the children, begged a tune on the violin from the laird, and walked out with him to see some plantations of trees he was making. Before leaving he expressed envy of the laird's peaceful life in the midst of a country so disturbed by war. Next





KILRAVOCK CASTLE, NAIRNSHIRE, SEAT OF THE CHIEFS OF CLAN ROSE



day the Duke of Cumberland arrived at the Castle, where it is said he spent the night. His boots, a pair of huge Wellingtons, are still to be seen there. In course of talk he remarked to the laird, "You have had my cousin here?" and on Kilravock hastening to explain that he had had no means of refusing entertainment, the Duke stopped him with the remark that he had done quite right. The laird was then Provost of Nairn, and a silver-mounted drinking cup of cocoanut still preserved at Kilravock bears the inscription, "This cup belongs to the Provost of Nairn, 1746, the year of our deliverance. A bumper to the Duke of Cumberland."

For a hundred years the Sheriffship of Ross had been all but hereditary in the family, and after the abolition of heritable jurisdictions in 1746, Hugh Rose, the seventeenth baron, was still appointed sheriff depute by the King. Books and music, gardening and hospitality, filled up the pleasant life at Kilravock in this laird's time. He himself was a good classical scholar, and was consulted constantly by Professor Moore, of Glasgow, regarding his great edition of Homer.

It was the daughter and heiress of this laird who was known in so much of the correspondence of the north in her time as Mrs. Elizabeth Rose. This lady succeeded her brother, the eighteenth baron, in 1782, married her cousin, Hugh Rose of Brea, the heir-male, and lived through a long widowhood till 1815. Lady Kilravock, as she was called, had a high reputation for taste in music and literature, and when Robert Burns set out on his Highland tour in the autumn of 1787, he carried an introduction to her from her cousin, Henry MacKenzie, the "Man of Feeling." The Poet's two visits to the castle within a couple of days of each other are noted in his journal, and referred to in a letter in the following spring.

Below the crag on which the castle stands, winds the wild sequestered path known as the Fairy Walk, on which Burns is said to have rambled with the ladies of the house. The highly accomplished character of Mrs. Elizabeth Rose is also attested in the writings of Hugh Miller and other well-known authors.

From first to last, indeed, the Roses of Kilravock stand distinguished among the chiefs of Highland clans for their refined and literary taste. Something of the popular impression of this is to be seen in the well-known ballad of "Sir James the Rose," which had probably some member of the house for its subject. Major James Rose, the late laird and head of the house, was Lord-



Lieutenant of Nairnshire from 1889 to 1904. His son, the present laird, Colonel Hugh Rose, had just retired from active service in the Army when the Great European War broke out in 1914. He then again offered his services, and shortly after the beginning of hostilities was appointed Camp Commandant of one of the divisions of the British Expeditionary Force in France. Among other distinguished holders of the name in recent times have been William Stewart Rose, the well-known scholar, poet, and friend of Sir Walter Scott, and his nephew, Hugh Henry Rose, Lord Strathnairn, who won his way by distinguished services in India to the position of Commander-in-Chief in that great dependency.



ROSS





## CLAN ROSS

BADGE : Craobh Aiteann (*Juniperis communis*) juniper.

PIBROCH : Spaidseareachd Iarla Ros, composed in 1427.

THERE seems to be little doubt that the Chiefs of Clan Ross took their name from the character of the district in which they held their possessions. Ross is the descriptive name for a certain type of promontory, and the district of Ross in the north of Scotland is par excellence the great promontory of the country. It is in somewhat similar fashion that the Ord of Caithness and the Mull of Kintyre have come to be known above all others as "the Ord" and "the Mull" respectively.

There seems to be no record of the time or circumstances in which the chiefs of the clan now bearing that name originally settled in the district. They may, therefore, have been originally of Celtic blood, or they may, like so many others of the Highland chiefs, have been settlers introduced from the south in the time of Malcolm Canmore and his son. In this latter case they would originally be known under the appellation of De Ros, from the name of their territory, and the appellation would, in the course of time, as in other cases, come to be their family name. The race was also known in the Highlands as the Clan Gille Andras, or Tribe of the Follower of St. Andrew, the tradition being that one of the early chiefs had been devoted to the service of the Patron Saint of Scotland.

The chief of the clan does not appear in history till the reign of Malcolm IV., but when he does so, he is termed by Wyntoun the chronicler, one of the seven "Mayster men" or magnates of Scotland, and so must already have occupied a position of high power and consequence. According to the Register of Dunfermline, a certain Malcolm was at that time Earl of Ross, and he was probably the same individual with the Gille Anrias Ergemauche whom Wyntoun describes as chief spokesman, along with Ferquhard, Earl of Strathearn, among the seven magnates who conspired to overthrow the King, and place his brother William on the throne. The cause

of the conspiracy was the fact that King Malcolm, as holder of an English fief, the Earldom of Huntingdon, had followed Henry II. of England in his expedition against Toulouse. Malcolm was holding his court at Perth in 1160, soon after his return from France, when the conspirators suddenly surrounded the city. The young King, however, proved more vigorous than they expected. Instead of waiting to be attacked, he took the offensive, drove them from the field, and pursued them into Galloway. There, at the third attempt, he overthrew his enemies. Fergus, lord of Galloway, became a monk at Holyrood and the Earl of Ross appears to have been forfeited. Two years later, at any rate, according to *Documents, etc., illustrating the History of Scotland*, iv. 5, p. 20, the earldom of Ross was granted as part of the dowry of the Princess Ada on her marriage with Florence, Count of Holland.

It would appear, however, as if the earldom of Gilleanrias had before long been regranted to the son of that personage, for, shortly after the accession of Alexander II. in 1214, Ferquhard Mac-in-Sagart (son of the priest), Earl of Ross, appears performing a brilliant part in the history of the north. Donald Bane, representative of the legitimate line of "the gracious Duncan," appeared in that region to assert for the last time the claim of his house to the Scottish throne. He was promptly met there by the Earl of Ross, who defeated the rebels, slew the leaders, and, on presenting their heads to the king, received the honour of knighthood from the royal hand. The story is told in the Chronicle of Melrose.

From that time the Earls of Ross appear as strong supporters of the Scottish King, and, holding Skye and the Nordreys, or northern islands, in opposition to a Norwegian nominee, seem to have done their best to complete the overthrow of the Norse power in the Isles. The "race of the priest," otherwise Gilleanrias, appear indeed to have been among the great leaders of that time who, under Alexander II. and Alexander III., finally defeated and overthrew the Norse dominion which had been closing its hold upon the north and west of Scotland for 500 years.

Twenty years after the attempt of Donald Bane, the Earl of Ross did the King most substantial service in another province of his realm. On the death of Alan Fitz Roland, Lord of Galloway, that province seemed upon the point of being divided between his three daughters, Helen, wife of Roger de Quinci, Earl of Win-



chester, Christina, wife of William de Fortibus, and Devorgilla, wife of John Baliol. Resisting this partition, the people of the Province invited Thomas, a natural son of their late lord, to assert his claim, and proceeded to attack the neighbouring country with fire and sword. King Alexander advanced into Galloway with an army, and while his forces were entangled in marshy ground, ill suited to the movements of mounted men-at-arms, the insurgents rushed down from a hill, and would have overwhelmed him, had it not been that the Earl of Ross, at the head of his own light-armed mountaineers, came up in time, attacked the Galloway men in the rear, and scattered them in disorder. Alexander, it will be seen, had good reason for his policy of confirming and supporting the Earl of Ross in his great possessions in the north, as a buttress against the power of the enemies of the throne.

The fortunes of the family of Ross thus rose upon the decay of the ancient Norwegian earldoms of Orkney and Caithness. By the middle of the century Alastair, Earl of Ross, had attained the high position of Justiciar of the Kingdom, and from that time, for two centuries and a half, the Earls of Ross remained the most powerful nobles in the north.

In the boyhood of Alexander III., when his father-in-law, Henry III. of England, was scheming to secure a suzerainty over Scotland, and actually effected a coup de état at Roxburgh, the heads of the Scottish Government, whom he succeeded in displacing, were the great Walter Comyn, Earl of Monteith, John Baliol, father of the future king, and Robert de Ross, these personages being too patriotic for the purposes of the English monarch. The Robert de Ross who thus appears in a heroic light on the historic page may have been a brother or a son of the great northern Earl.

In the campaigns of Robert the Bruce and his brother Edward, Sir Walter, the Earl of Ross of that time, appears as the bosom friend of the latter, and he and Sir William Vipont are recorded as the only persons of note who were slain on the side of the Scots at the battle of Bannockburn. At the battle of Halidon Hill, again, after the death of Bruce, one of the four divisions of the Scottish army was led by Hugh, Earl of Ross. When the day was going badly against the Scots, who, as they struggled through the marshy ground, were falling thick as leaves in Vallombrosa under the arrows of the English bowmen, the Earl proceeded to lead his division against



the wing where Edward Baliol commanded, but was driven back and slain.

Thirteen years later still, when David II. was gathering a great Scottish army in preparation for the ill-fated campaign which was to end in defeat at the battle of Durham, the Earl of Ross took part in a transaction which withdrew a large part of the Scottish forces from the royal army. The muster took place at Perth, and was the greatest known for a considerable period. Unfortunately, however, it afforded an opportunity for ancient feuds to break out between the Highland chiefs. Among these the bitterest occurred between the Earl of Ross and Ranald of the Isles. This came to a head in the monastery of Elcho, where the Earl assassinated his enemy. Forthwith, dreading the royal vengeance, the Earl withdrew his men, and retreated rapidly into the north. At the same time the Islesmen, having lost their leader, dispersed in confusion. Not only did the king find his forces considerably reduced in consequence, but the event made a serious impression upon the spirits of the army, by whom it was looked upon as an omen of disaster.

This Earl, William, left no male issue. His daughter, Euphemia, married Sir Walter Leslie of Leslie, Aberdeenshire, and he, in her right, assumed the title of Earl of Ross. Their son, again, was known as Alexander Leslie, Earl of Ross. Alexander married a daughter of the Regent Duke of Albany and upon his death, about the year 1405, his only child, a daughter, having become a nun, was induced by the all-powerful Duke of Albany to assign the lands and earldom to her mother's brother, the Earl of Buchan. Alexander Leslie's sister, Margaret, however, had married Donald, Lord of the Isles, and he, in her right, now claimed the earldom of Ross. Raising an army of 10,000 men, he took possession of the Earldom, and, marching southwards, reached Inverurie on the Don, less than twenty miles from Aberdeen. There he was met by the Regent's forces under the Earl of Mar, and on St. John's Eve, 24th July, fought the bloody battle of Harlaw. Ultimately, by a treaty with Albany at Lochgilp on the Firth of Clyde, Donald was forced to relinquish the earldom; but, after the return of James I. and the overthrow of the house of Albany, Donald's son, Alexander, who was the King's cousin once removed, was recognised as Earl of Ross.

In this way the earldom of Ross became separated from the chiefship of the clan, and it ultimately, after the forfeiture of John, Lord of the Isles and Earl of Ross, at the

end of the fifteenth century, was conferred upon the second son of James III. and a succession of other holders. Meanwhile, however, the chiefship had really passed to a brother of the last Earl William, father of the Countess Euphemia. This brother, Hugh Ross of Rarichies, in 1374 received a charter of the lands of Balnagown. The influence of the Leslie, who as feudal superiors in right of the Countess Euphemia, claimed the services of the Ross-shire tenants as their vassals, prevented Balnagown from openly exercising the powers of the chiefship, and a far relative, Paul MacTyre, a man celebrated for his valor, took command of the clan, much in the same way as at a later day the famous Rob Roy took command of the MacGregors. When at last the Balnagown family was able to resume its proper authority, the power of the clan had considerably declined, and in the feuds which followed it suffered still further loss. The chief of these feuds was with the Mackays of Strathnaver. Again and again the Rosses had suffered molestation from these enemies, and when at last, driven to desperation and thoroughly infuriated, they gathered their forces and marched against the Mackay Chief, they were in the mood to teach a severe lesson. The Mackays, with Angus of Strathnaver at their head, finding themselves fiercely attacked, sought shelter in the church of Tarbat. There several were slain, and, the church being set on fire, Angus Mackay and many of his clansmen were burnt to ashes. To avenge this "cruel slaughter," Ian Riach MacKay gathered his men, and, helped by a force of the Sutherlands, his neighbours on the south, invaded the territory of the Rosses and proceeded to lay it waste with the utmost fury. In defence of his people, Alastair Ross, the Laird of Balnagown, gathered all his forces, and, meeting the invaders, engaged in the long and desperate battle of Blair alt na charish. In the end the battle went against the Rosses, Alastair himself being slain, with seventeen gentlemen of his clan and a great number of others. The defeat proved a real disaster, from which the clan never really recovered. In 1427 the Earl of Ross could bring into the field 2,000 men; in 1715 the strength of the clan was reckoned at no more than 360, and by 1745 it had only increased to 500.

At the beginning of the eighteenth century the line of Balnagown came to an end. David Ross, the Chief, finding himself the last of his line, sold the estate to General Charles Ross, brother of Lord Ross of Hawkhead near Glasgow, in whose family it has since descended.

The Hawkhead family, however, were in no way related to the Rosses of the North, their ancestor having come from Yorkshire in the twelfth century, and settled in the county of Renfrew. As a matter of fact the Rosses of Balnagown of the present day are descended from the Rosses of Hawkhead only in the female line, the estate having been inherited by Sir James Lockhart, Bart., of Carstairs, on the death of his cousin, William, fourteenth and last Lord Ross, and the name Ross having been assumed by the Lockharts in consequence.

Thus, though of an ancient race, the present house of Balnagown can make no claim to the chiefship of the clan. On the death of David Ross of Balnagown in the eighteenth century, the chiefship passed to Ross of Pitcalnie, who thus became representative of the ancient and powerful race of northern Earls.

#### SEPTS OF CLAN ROSS

Anderson  
Dingwall  
MacAndrew  
MacLulich  
MacTear  
MacTire  
Vass

Andrew  
Gillanders  
MacCulloch  
MacTaggart  
MacTier  
Taggart  
Wass





### SHAW

THIS FIGURE WAS COPIED BY M'IAN FROM THAT OF AN  
OFFICER OF A HIGHLAND REGIMENT IN A PRINT OF 1786.  
THE TARTAN IS NOT AUTHENTIC.



## CLAN SHAW

**BADGE:** Lus nam braoileag (*Vaccinium vitis idæa*) red whortleberry.

THE Rev. Lachlan Shaw, historian of Moray, declared that he saw no reason to doubt that all persons of the name, in the south country as well as the north, were members of this clan. There is reason to believe, however, that many Shaws in the south take their name from some ancestor's residence near a "shaw" or thicket, this being a common local place-name either alone or with some qualification, as in Pollokshaws, near Glasgow. The Gaelic name, Na Si'aich, on the other hand, means "Son of the Tempest" or "Son of the Snow." The same author, and the Rev. W. G. Shaw, following him, in his *Memorials of Clan Shaw*, quote unvaried tradition for the statement that the Shaws held Rothiemurcus from the Bishops of Moray in undisturbed possession for a long period prior to 1350. In that year, these writers declare, the Comyns of Strathdallas obtained a wadset or lease of the lands, and on the Shaws refusing to give them up, a combat took place in which James Shaw, the chief, fell. By his wife, a daughter of Ferguson, a baron of Atholl, this chief, say these writers, was father of a son who, on coming of age, attacked and defeated the Comyns and killed their leader at a place since called Laggan na Chuimnaich. He then purchased the freehold of Rothiemurcus and Baile an Easpuig, and so stopped further dispute.

Still another statement was made, in a *Genealogie of the Farquharsons*, written about the year 1700. The writer of that document derived his clan and that of the Shaws from Shaw, third son of Macduff, who, he says, "took his proper name for his surname, came north, and possessed himself of Rothiemurcus, which was a part of his father's inheritance."

All these writers appear to have been misled by the occurrence of the Christian name Seth or Scayth in early documents. As a matter of fact, down to the seventeenth century the owners of Rothiemurcus were known as



Mackintoshes, and only then took the Christian name of their doughty ancestor Shaw Mackintosh for a family name. The entire matter is clearly discussed and set forth in *The Mackintoshes and Clan Chattan*, by Mr. A. M. Mackintosh.

The Mackintoshes themselves claim descent from Shaw Macduff, son of the Earl of Fife, in 1163. The early chiefs of the Mackintoshes in the thirteenth century were alternately named Shaw and Ferquhard, and according to the Kinrara MS., Shaw the fourth chief obtained in 1236 from Andrew, Bishop of Moray, founder of Elgin Cathedral, a lease of Rothiemurcus in Strathspey. Angus, sixth Mackintosh chief, in 1291 married Eva, only daughter and heiress of the head of the "old" Clan Chattan, and he and his descendants became on that account Captains of Clan Chattan. According to the Kinrara MS., the founder of the family afterwards known as Shaws was a great-grandson of this pair. In modern tradition he is called Shaw Mor, or "the Great"; by Bower and Major he is designated Shaw Beg, or "Little," probably from his stature; and otherwise he is known as Shaw Sgorf-hiachlach or Coriachlich, the Buck-toothed. The Mackintosh tradition is that his father's name was Gilchrist, but that of the Shaws runs that his father was James. The latter tradition seems the more likely, as Shaw Mor's son was named James, probably so called in Scottish fashion, after his grandfather. In this latter case the tradition would agree with the account already mentioned of the fall of James, an ancestor of the Shaws, in the struggle with the Comyns for possession of Rothiemurcus, and Shaw Mor would be the son who, on coming of age, avenged his father's death at Laggan na Chuiminaich. A little later he was to appear as a leader in a more extended warfare.

When Duncan, natural son of the Wolf of Badenoch, following his father's lawless and evil ways, swept down upon the lowland district of Angus in 1391, destroying and murdering with reckless cruelty, and overthrowing the royal forces under Ogilvie, Sheriff of Angus, at the bloody battle of Gasklune, near the Water of Isla, the Mackintoshes were led by Shaw Mor. Among the persons put to the horn for that raid of Angus the Act of Parliament of the time mentions "Slurach and the haill Clan Qwhevil." The "Slurach" is obviously a mistranscription of Sheach, or Shaw, while the Qwhevil of the Act is, of course, the Clan Qwhewyl mentioned in Wyn-toun's *Chronicle* as taking part five years later in the famous combat of the "threttie against threttie" on the

North Inch of Perth. Rothiemurcus was at the time under the overlordship of the lawless son of Robert II., and a good deal of interesting matter regarding Shaw Mor is to be found in Sir Thomas Dick Lauder's romance, *The Wolf of Badenoch*.

It was probably by reason of the reputation he had gained in these affairs that Shaw Mor was chosen by his chief, Mackintosh, as captain of the picked warriors of the clan who took part in the battle on the North Inch in 1396. On a Monday morning, the day before Michaelmas, in the September of that year, a mighty multitude gathered to see that fight to the death within the barriers on the river side. King Robert III. was there, with his queen, Annabella Drummond, and his crafty brother, the Duke of Albany, in the Gilten Arbour specially built for the occasion, as well as many of the nobles of Scotland and even visitors from France. All the world is familiar with the scene, as depicted in Sir Walter Scott's *Fair Maid of Perth*. At the last moment Clan Quhele was found to be a man short. His place was filled by an armourer of Perth, Hal o' the Wynd, otherwise the Gow Crom, or bandy-legged smith, who for his hire was to have a piece of silver and maintenance for life if he survived. Tradition runs that no sooner was the signal given than this doughty individual drew his bow and shot an enemy dead. He seemed disposed to make no further effort, and, on his captain demanding why, declared he had earned his day's wage. "Fight on," cried Shaw, "and your wage shall not be stinted." At this the smith rushed again into the battle, and by his fierce valour did much to win the fight. When all was over, and the only survivor of their opponents had plunged into the Tay and escaped, there were only eleven of Clan Quhele left, and all except the smith were wounded. According to the Kinrara MS., the stout armourer went home with the clan he had supported, and became the ancestor of the Gows or Smiths, who are counted a sept of Clan Chattan. At the same time, according to the same authority, the captain of the victorious party was handsomely rewarded by the Mackintosh chief: "Lachlan gave to Shaw possession of the lands of Rothiemurcus for the valour he showed that day against his enemies." In the quiet graveyard which surrounds the little kirk of Rothiemurcus the grave of Shaw Mor may still be seen. For centuries it was marked by a grey stone on which were laid five roughly rounded smaller stones. But about 1870 an American individual of the name of Shaw, who claimed to be a grand-nephew



of Farquhar Shaw, shot as a deserter from the Black Watch in 1743, laid on the grave a modern slab in which the deeds of Shaw Mor are attributed to a Farquhar Shaw!

James, the son and successor of Shaw Mor, took part in another and yet more important conflict. When Donald, Lord of the Isles, was being ousted by his uncle Robert, Duke of Albany, from his claim to the Earldom of Ross, and set out on his great raid across Scotland, he was followed, among other vassals, by Malcolm, tenth chief of the Mackintoshes, and his clan. They played their part valiantly in the great battle of Harlaw, fought on 24th July, 1411, and among those who fell in the struggle, both the ancient ballad and the historian Boece enumerate the Mackintosh chief. There is evidence, however, in the Kinrara MS., in charters and in the MS. History of the Macdonalds, that the chief survived till 1457. The leader who really fell was James of Rothiemurcus. The fact that he was called Mackintosh in the ballad and by Boece merely shows that the Rothiemurcus family were still known by that name.

James left two infant sons, Alexander Keir (*ciar*, brown) and Ai or Adam, ancestor of the Shaws of Tordarroch. At that time the Comyns, who had once been lords of Badenoch and of vast territories elsewhere in Scotland, were still numerous in the region, and they seem to have taken advantage of the infancy of the holders to take possession of Rothiemurcus. On coming of age, however, Alexander Ciar gathered his friends, surprised and destroyed these Comyn enemies, and cleared his territory. His father and grandfather had merely held the lands as *duchas*, but Alexander secured the permanent rights. According to the Kinrara MS., the eleventh Mackintosh chief, Duncan, disposed his right of possession and tack of Rothiemurcus to his cousin, Alister Keir Mackintosh, alias Shaw, and the conveyance was confirmed by the Bishop of Moray, feudal superior of the lands, who in 1464 gave "Alexander Keyr Mackintosity" a feu charter. The bishop was to receive an annual rent of twenty-four merks till Alister or his heirs should infest him in lands of ten pounds annual value nearer Elgin, after which the payment for Rothiemurcus was to be a fir cone annually, if demanded. Some trouble took place with the Mackintosh chief over this charter, but in the end Alister Ciar secured possession, and so became feudally independent of Mackintosh. From that time onward he seems to have acted as an independent chief, to have given bands of manrent direct to the Earls of Errol and Huntly,



and to have been recognised as the equal of the thanes of Cawdor and the lairds of Kilravock.

While John, his eldest son, succeeded him in Rothiemurcus, Alexander Ciar's younger sons became the ancestors of the Shaws of Dell, the Shaws of Dalnavert, the Farquharsons of Deeside, and the MacIvers of Harris and the Western Isles.

John's son Alan succeeded in 1521. Three years later Lachlan, chief of the Mackintoshes, was murdered while hunting at Raigmore on the Findhorn. Shortly afterwards the murderers were captured, and kept in chains in the stronghold of Loch-an-Eilan in Rothiemurcus till 1531, when they were tried by the Earl of Moray, and duly executed. At the same period when Clan Chattan was bringing trouble upon itself by raiding and slaughtering on the lands of the Earl of Moray, who had assumed the guardianship of his nephew, their infant chief, and by supporting the Earl of Angus in his too close guardianship of his stepson, the boy king, James V., "Allan Keir" is found concerned. So serious was the trouble that a mandate of extermination was issued against Clan Chattan. Among others, Grant of Freuchie was commissioned to pursue the offenders.

These acts seem to have undermined the fortunes of the house of Rothiemurcus. In 1539 Alan disposed of the property to George Gordon, governor of Ruthven Castle, and son of the Earl of Huntly. From the Gordons the lands passed to the Grants in 1567. This alienation of the lands was a bitter regret to the Mackintosh chief. He appealed to Grant's generosity to let him have his "own native country of Rothiemurcus" for the price he had paid for it. But Grant was adamant, and a feud began in consequence, which continued till 1586. Some of the popular stories of that feud are recounted in *Memoirs of a Highland Lady*, one of the Grants of Rothiemurcus. The authoress describes how the new owner repaired the ruins on Loch-an-Eilan in case of mishap, and destroyed the old fort of the Shaws on the Doune Hill, "leaving his malediction on any of his successors who should rebuild it." One rather gruesome story is of the slaying of one of the leaders of the Shaws. His followers "had to bury him, and no grave would suit them but one in the kirk-yard of Rothiemurcus beside his fathers. With such array as their fallen fortunes permitted of, they brought their dead, and laid him unmolested in that dust to which we must all return. But, oh, what horrid times! His widow next morning, on opening the door of her house

at Dalnavert, caught in her arms the corpse, which had been raised in the night and carried back to her. It was buried again, and again it was raised, more times than I care to say, till Laird James announced he was tired of the play. The corpse was raised, but carried home no more. It was buried deep down within the kirk, beneath the laird's own seat, and every Sunday when he went to pray he stamped his feet upon the heavy stone he had laid over the remains of his enemy."

Alan, who sold the estate, reserved possession to himself during his lifetime, and his son James and James's son Alan continued in the district after him. In 1620 appears the first instance of the use of Shaw as a family name, when Alexander Shaw in Dalnavert witnesses a Mackintosh sasine, but by 1640 the name was in full use. In 1645, the time of Montrose and the Civil War, the chief, as Alan Shaw, witnessed a bond of defence against the king's enemies.

According to tradition, Alan was outlawed for the slaughter of his stepfather, Dallas of Cantray, and having been seized and imprisoned in Castle Grant, died there soon afterwards.

The Rev. Lachlan Shaw, in his *History of Moray*, states that Alan's brother and associates "exiled into the Western Isles and Ireland," the main line of the family thus becoming extinct in the country. To the present day there are many Shaws in Skye and Jura, who may be descendants of these "exiles." The Rev. W. G. Shaw, however, in his *Memorials of Clan Shaw*, quotes the tradition of an Alasdair Ruaidh Shaw who resisted all the attempts of the Grants to eject him from his tenancy of Achnahaitnich, laughing at legal processes, and resisting with sword and gun. This Alasdair he makes out to have been Alan's brother, and to have continued the main line of the family at Crathinard in Braemar and Crandard in Glenisla. But the evidence seems doubtful. Sir Robert Sibbald in 1680 described Rothiemurcus as formerly belonging to "the Schaws, who still possess (i.e., occupy) the parish, Alexander Schaw of Dell being head of the tribe."



SINCLAIR

Facing page 478.





## CLAN SINCLAIR

**BADGE :** Conasg (*Ulex Europæus*) furze or whin.

**PIBROCH :** Spaidsearachd Mhic nan Ceàrda.

EVERY Scottish schoolboy is familiar with the story of the heroic fight with the Moors on a field of Spain in which the Good Lord James of Douglas met his death. In that fight, it will be remembered, Douglas noted that a Scottish knight, Sir William St. Clair, had charged too far, and had been surrounded by the enemy. "Yonder worthy knight will be slain," he exclaimed, "unless he have instant help," and he galloped to the rescue. Then, himself surrounded by the enemy, and seeing no hope for escape, he took from his neck the casket containing Bruce's heart, and threw it forward among the enemy. "Pass first in fight," he cried, "as thou were wont to do; Douglas will follow thee or die!" and pressing forward to the place where it had fallen, was himself slain. The William St. Clair who thus comes into historical note, and who, with his brother John, was slain on that Andalusian battlefield, was the ancestor in direct male line of the Sinclairs, Earls of Caithness, of the present day.

Like so many of the great Highland families, the St. Clairs were not originally of Celtic stock. Their progenitor is said to have been William, son of the Comte de St. Clair, a relative of William the Conqueror, who "came over" with that personage in 1066. He or a descendant seems to have been one of the Norman knights brought into Scotland to support the new dynasty and feudal system of Malcolm Canmore and his sons. In the twelfth century there were two families of the name, the St. Clairs of Roslyn and the St. Clairs of Herdmonstoun respectively, though no relationship was traced between them. Sir William de St. Clair of Roslyn, who flourished in the latter half of the thirteenth century, was a guardian of the young Scottish king, Alexander III., and one of the envoys sent to negotiate the French marriage for that prince. He was sheriff of Dumfries and justiciar of Galloway, and, as a partizan of Baliol, was captured by the English at Dunbar in 1294, escaping from

Gloucester Castle nine years later. His son, Sir Henry, was also captured at Dunbar, but exchanged in 1299. He was sheriff of Lanark in 1305, fought for Bruce at Bannockburn, and received a pension in 1328. It was his brother William, Bishop of Dunkeld, who repulsed the English at Donibristle in 1317 and crowned Edward Baliol in 1332.

Sir William St. Clair who fell in Spain in 1329 was the elder son of Sir Henry St. Clair of Roslyn. His son, another Sir William, who succeeded to the Roslyn heritage, added immensely to the fortunes of his family by marrying Isabella, daughter and co-heir of Malise, Earl of Strathearn, Caithness, and Orkney. In consequence his son Henry became Earl or Prince of Orkney at the hand of Hakon VI. in 1379. He conquered the Faroe Islands in 1391, wrested Shetland from Malise Sperra, and with Antonio Zeno, crossed the Atlantic, and explored Greenland. His son, another Henry Sinclair, second Earl of Orkney, was twice captured by the English, at Homildon Hill in 1402 and with the young James I. on his voyage to France in 1406. He married Isabella, daughter and heiress of Sir William Douglas of Nithsdale, and the Princess Egidia, daughter of Robert II.; and his son, William, third Earl of Orkney, was one of the most powerful nobles in the country in the time of James II.

The Earl was one of the hostages for the ransom of James I. in 1421, and in 1436, as High Admiral of Scotland, conveyed James's daughter to her marriage with the Dauphin, afterwards Louis XI. of France. At his investiture with the earldom of Orkney in 1434 he acknowledged the Norwegian jurisdiction over the islands, and in 1446 he was summoned to Norway as a vassal. In this same year he began the foundation of the famous Collegiate Church, now known as Roslyn Chapel, on the Esk near Edinburgh, which is perhaps at the present hour the richest fragment of architecture in Scotland, and in the vaults of which lie in their leaden coffins so many generations of "the lordly line of high St. Clair." Sir Walter Scott has recorded in a well-known poem the tradition that on the death of the chief of that great race Roslyn Chapel is seen as if it were flaming to heaven. At his great stronghold of Roslyn Castle at hand the Earl of Orkney lived in almost regal splendour. In 1448, when the English, instigated by Richard, Duke of York, broke across the Borders and burned Dumfries and Dunbar, the Earl assisted in their repulse and overthrow. In the following year he was summoned to Parliament as



Lord Sinclair. From 1454 to 1456 he was Chancellor of Scotland under James V., whose side he took actively against the Earl of Douglas, though Douglas's mother, Lady Beatrice Sinclair, was his own aunt, and who, in 1455, on his relinquishing his claim to Nithsdale, made him Earl of Caithness. This honour was no doubt partly due to the fact that, through his great-grandmother, the wife of Malise of Strathearn, he inherited the blood of the more ancient Earls of Caithness, the first recorded of whom is said to be a certain Dungald who flourished in 875. A few years later certain actions of Earl William and his son may be said to have brought about the marriage of James III. and the transference of Orkney and Shetland to the Scottish crown. During some disagreement with Tulloch, Bishop of Orkney, St. Clair's son seized and imprisoned that prelate. Forthwith Christiern, King of Denmark, to whom Orkney then belonged, wrote to the young Scottish king demanding not only the liberation of his bishop, but also the arrears of the old "Annual of Norway" which Alexander III. of Scotland had agreed to pay for possession of the Hebrides. The matter was settled by the marriage of James III. to Christiern's daughter, Margaret, the annual of Norway being forgiven as part of the princess's dowry, and the Orkney and Shetland islands pledged to James for payment of the rest. St. Clair was then, in 1471, induced to relinquish to the king his Norwegian earldom of Orkney, receiving as compensation the rich lands of Dysart, with the stronghold of Ravenscraig, which James II. had built for his queen on the coast of Fife.

The earl was twice married. By his first wife, Elizabeth, daughter of the fourth Earl of Douglas, he had a son and daughter. Katherine, the daughter, married Alexander, Duke of Albany, son of James II., and was divorced, while William the son was left by his father only the estate of Newburgh in Aberdeenshire and the title of Lord Sinclair, by which title the earl had been called to Parliament in 1449. In 1676 this title of Baron St. Clair passed through a female heir, Katherine, Mistress of Sinclair, to her son Henry St. Clair, representative of the family of Sinclair of Herdmonstoun. Through his daughter Grisel and two successive female heirs the estates passed to the family of Anstruther Thomson of Charleton, while the title of Lord Sinclair was inherited by the descendants of his uncle Matthew. The present Lords Sinclair are therefore of the family of Herdmonstoun, and are not descended from the original holder of

the title, the great William, Earl of Orkney and Caithness and Chancellor of Scotland, of the days of James II. and III.

Earl William's second wife was a daughter of Alexander Sutherland of Dunbeath, and by her, besides other children, he had two sons. To one of these, William, he left the earldom of Caithness, and to the other, Sir Oliver, he left Roslyn and the Fife estates. It is from the former that the Earls of Caithness of the present day are directly descended.

William, the second Earl, was one of the twelve great nobles of that rank who fell with James IV. on Flodden field. So many of the Caithness men were killed on that occasion that since then the Sinclairs have had the strongest aversion to clothe themselves in green or to cross the Ord Hill on a Monday; for it was in green and on a Monday that they marched over the Ord Hill to that disastrous battle. So great was the disaster to the north that scarcely a family of note in the Sinclair country but lost the representative of its name.

John, the third Earl, was not less unfortunate. In 1529, ambitious of recovering for himself his grandfather's earldom of Orkney, and of establishing himself there as an independent prince, he raised a formidable force and set sail to possess himself of the island. The enterprise was short-lived, most of the natives of the islands remained loyal to James V., and, led by James Sinclair, the governor, they put to sea, and in a naval battle defeated and slew the Earl with 500 of his followers, making prisoners of the rest.

George, the fourth Earl, has a place in history chiefly by reason of the sorrows and indignities he had to suffer at the hands of his eldest son. That eldest son, John, Lord Berriedale, Master of Caithness, induced his father in 1543 to resign the earldom to him. He married Jean, daughter of Patrick, third Earl of Bothwell, and widow of John Stewart, prior of Coldingham, a natural son of James V., and he set out to aggrandise himself by most unnatural means. Among other exploits he imprisoned his father, and in 1573 strangled his younger brother, William Sinclair of Mey. Earl George himself was mixed up in the history of his time in a somewhat questionable way. In 1555 he was imprisoned and fined for neglecting to attend the courts of the Regent. As a Lord of Parliament in 1560 he opposed the ratification of the Confession of Faith, when that document was abruptly placed upon the statute book. He was made hereditary



justiciar in Caithness in 1566, but that did not prevent him taking part in the plot for the murder of Darnley in the following year, nor again did this prevent him from presiding at the trial of the chief conspirator, the Earl of Bothwell. Among his other actions he signed the letter of the rebel lords to Queen Elizabeth in 1570, and was accused of being an instigator of crimes in the north.

His son, the Master of Caithness, being dead five years before him, in 1577, he was succeeded by the Master's eldest son, George, as fifth Earl. This personage, in the days of James VI. and Charles I., engaged in feuds, raids, and other similar enterprises which seemed almost out of date at that late period. It was he who in 1616 instigated John Gunn, chief of that clan, to burn the corn-stacks of some of his enemies, an exploit which secured Gunn a rigorous prosecution and imprisonment in Edinburgh; and it was he who in 1585 joined the Earl of Sutherland in making war upon the Gunns, in the course of which undertaking, at the battle of Bengrian, the Sinclairs, rushing prematurely to the attack, were overwhelmed by the arrow-flight and charge of the Gunns, and lost their commander with 120 of his men. The Earl's great feud, however, was that against the Earl of Sutherland himself. The feud began with the slaughter of George Gordon of Marle by some of the Caithness men in 1588. By way of retaliation the Earl of Sutherland sent into Caithness 200 men who ravaged the parishes of Latherone and Dunbeath; then, following them up, he himself overran the Sinclair country, and besieged the Earl of Caithness in Castle Sinclair. The stronghold proved impregnable, and when Sutherland retired after a long and unsuccessful siege, Caithness assembled his whole clan, marched into Sutherlandshire with fire and sword, defeated his enemies in a pitched battle, and carried off much spoil. Sutherland retaliated in turn, 300 of his men spoiling and wasting Caithness, killing over thirty of their enemies, and bringing back a great booty. The Sinclairs again made reprisals with their whole force. As they returned with their plunder they were attacked at Clyne by the Sutherland men to the number of about 500, but maintained a desperate fight till nightfall, and then managed to make off. On reaching home, however, they found that the Mackays had raided their country from the other side, and, after spreading desolation and gathering spoil, had retired as suddenly as they had come. When these raids and counter-raids with the men of Sutherland were over, the Earl of Caith-



ness found other openings for his turbulent enterprise. After committing an outrage on the servants of the Earl of Orkney, he earned credit to himself by putting down the rebellion of Orkney's son, and for this in 1615 received a pension. Having, however, committed certain outrages on Lord Forbes, he was obliged to resign his pension and the sheriffdom of Caithness in order to obtain pardon. For his various acts a commission of fire and sword was issued against him, and he was driven to seek refuge in Shetland. It was not long before he was allowed to return, but he did so only to meet his creditors, and at his death twenty years later he left his affairs still in a state of embarrassment.

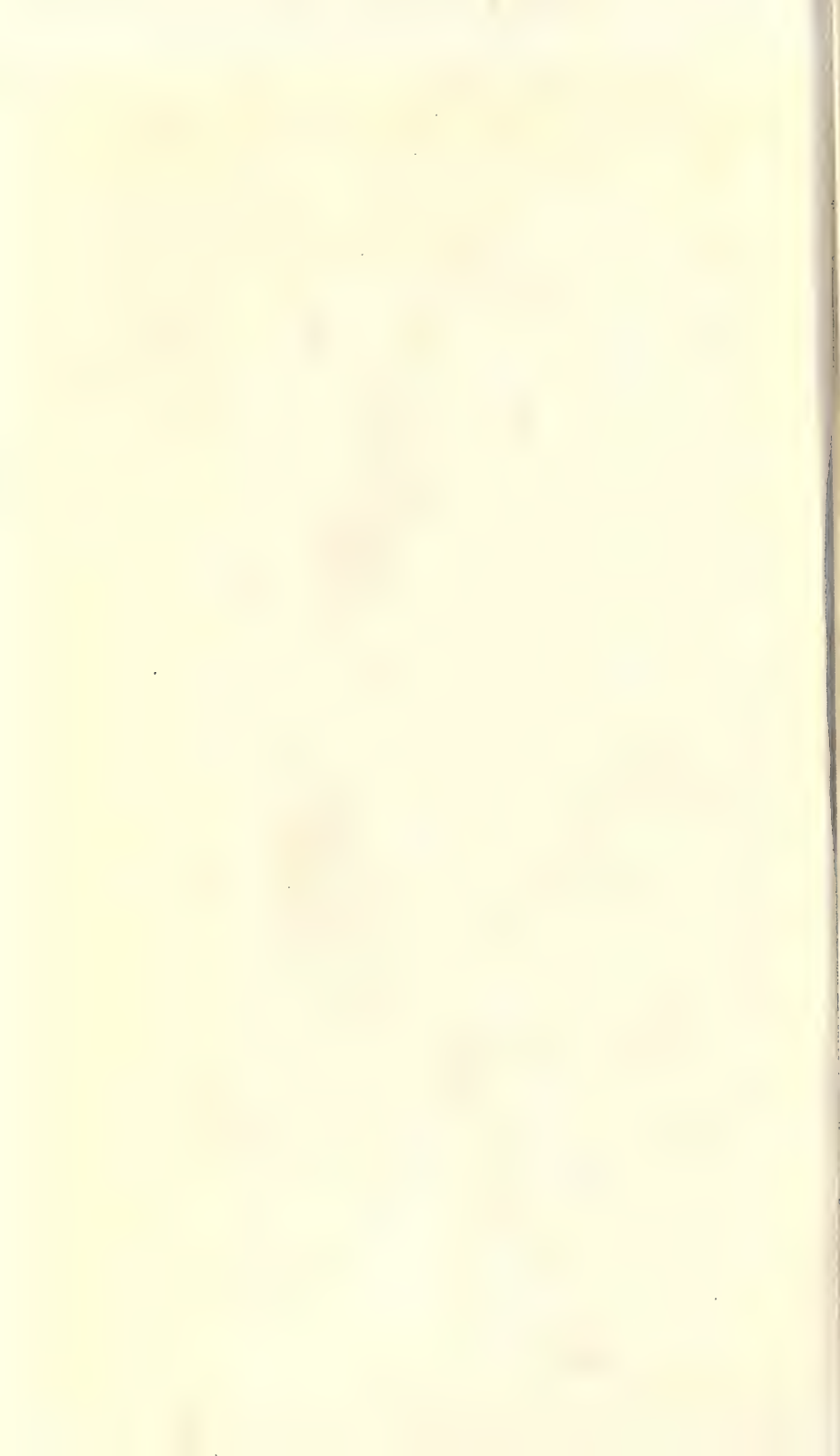
The son and grandson of the fifth Earl having died before him, he was succeeded as sixth Earl by his great-grandson, George. The career of this Earl and of his rival, the astute and unscrupulous Sir John Campbell, Bart., of Glenurchy, reads almost like the pages of a melodrama, and still forms the subject of many a tradition repeated among the people of Caithness. The Chief of the Sinclairs, helped, it is said, by the machinations of Glenurchy, found himself more and more deeply involved in debt. There are stories of his raising money upon mortgage to help friends who were in turn in the power of Glenurchy, and of the mortgages and loans alike finding their way into Glenurchy's hands. Finally in 1672, the Earl, finding himself involved beyond recovery, was forced to make over to Glenurchy, as his principal creditor, a wadset, not only of his lands, but also of his honours. The wadset was to be redeemable within six years, but after that time the right to the lands was to become absolute and the title of Earl of Caithness was to pass to Glenurchy. Four years later the Earl of Caithness died, and two years later still Glenurchy married his widow, Mary, daughter of Archibald, the notorious Marquess of Argyle. At the same time, the period of the wadset having arrived, Glenurchy laid claim to the lands and title of the Earldom of Caithness. His claim was resisted by the heir male, George Sinclair of Keiss, son of the second son of the fifth Earl. King Charles II., deciding that the right belonged to Campbell, granted him a new charter, including both title and estates, but when Glenurchy tried to collect his rents he found the Sinclairs refuse to pay. In order to enforce his right Glenurchy, who was now Earl of Caithness, sent into the north a body of men under his kinsman, Robert Campbell of Glenlyon, afterwards notorious as captain of the force which carried



*Photo. T. & R. Annan & Sons.*

*From the Painting by Sir Henry Raeburn*

**SIR JOHN SINCLAIR, BART. OF ULBSTER**





out the Massacre of Glencoe. The Campbells marched northward till they were confronted by the forces of the Sinclairs on the further bank of a stream. For a time, it is said, they remained there, neither side venturing an attack; but at last Campbell sent a convoy of French wines and spirits along a road on which he knew it must fall into the hands of the Sinclairs. That night there were sounds of merrymaking in the camp of the latter. When these sounds had died away, and Glenlyon judged his opponents to be unlikely to make effective resistance, he marched his men across the stream, and cut the Sinclairs to pieces. As he did this, the pipers of the Campbells played for the first time the pibroch, *Bodach an Briogas*, the Lad of the Breeches, in derision of the Sinclairs, who wore, not the kilt, but the trews. The tune has ever since been the gathering piece of the Campbells of Breadalbane.

But though Glenlyon had routed the Sinclairs, King Charles shortly afterwards became convinced that he had made an error, and in 1680 he caused Glenurchy to relinquish the earldom of Caithness, recompensing him at the same time by creating him Earl of Breadalbane and Holland. George Sinclair of Keiss who thus became seventh Earl, died unmarried in 1698, and the family honours devolved on John, grandson of Sir James Sinclair of Murchill, brother of the fifth Earl. Sir James had married Elizabeth, daughter of Robert, Earl of Strathearn and Orkney, a natural son of James V., so John, who succeeded as eighth Earl, was a great-great-grandson of the gay "guidman of Ballengeich."

At this period the Jacobite Rebellion of 1745 took place. According to the estimate of President Forbes of Culloden, the Sinclairs could then raise 1,000 men. Five hundred of them actually took arms, and were on their way to join Prince Charles when news of the defeat of the cause at Culloden reached them and caused them to disband.

On the death of Alexander, ninth Earl of Caithness, without a male heir, the earldom was claimed by a grandson of David Sinclair of Broynach, brother of the eighth Earl. The claimant's father was understood to have been illegitimate, but it was sought to be proved that he had been legitimated by a subsequent marriage of David of Broynach to his mother. Both in 1768 and 1786, however, the courts repelled this claim, and the earldom accordingly passed to William Sinclair of Ratter, representative of Sir John Sinclair of Greenland, third son of the Master of Caithness, fourth Earl. The son of this Earl was again the last of his line, and the earldom passed

to Sir James Sinclair, Bart., of Mey, representative of George Sinclair of Mey, third son of the fourth Earl. This peer, who was the twelfth Earl of Caithness, was Lord Lieutenant of the county, and became Postmaster-General in 1810. Alexander, his second son, who succeeded him, was also Lord Lieutenant, and his son, James, the fourteenth Earl, after being for a time a representative peer, was created a peer of the United Kingdom as Baron Barrogill in 1866. This honour became extinct on the death of his only son, George, fifteenth Earl, in 1889. The Scottish honours then passed to James Augustus Sinclair, representative of Robert Sinclair of Durran, third son of Sir James Sinclair, first baronet of Mey, grandson of George Sinclair of Mey, third son of the fourth Earl; and the present Earl of Caithness, who in 1914 succeeded his elder brother as eighteenth Earl, is his second son.

Probably none of the ancient peerages of Scotland has passed so often to collateral heirs as has the earldom of Caithness since the death of George, sixth holder of the title, in 1676. The present chief of the Sinclairs is still, however, representative by direct male descent of the doughty Lords of Roslyn of the twelfth and thirteenth centuries.

Of cadet houses of the name, the two most noted are those of Sinclair of Ulbster and Sinclair of Dunbeath. The former of these is descended from Patrick, elder legitimated son of William Sinclair of Mey, second son of the fourth Earl, who was strangled by his brother, the Master of Caithness, in 1573. Of this family John Sinclair of Ulbster became Hereditary Sheriff of Caithness at the beginning of the eighteenth century, and Sir John Sinclair, first baronet of Ulbster, whose mother was sister of the seventeenth Earl of Sutherland, remains famous as the greatest improver of Scottish agriculture, founder and President of the Board of Agriculture, and compiler of that indispensable work, the *Statistical Account of Scotland*. He raised from among the clansmen two Fencible regiments each 1,000 strong, and was the first to extend the services of these troops beyond Scotland. Sir John, who was a Privy Councillor and cashier of the Excise in Scotland, died in 1835, and the present baronet of Ulbster is his great-great-grandson.

The Sinclairs of Dunbeath, again, are descended from Alexander Sinclair of Latheron, youngest son of George Sinclair of Mey, third son of the fourth Earl, who married Margaret, daughter of William, seventh Lord Forbes.



The baronetcy dates from 1704, and the house has been notable for its distinguished services in the Army and in Parliament, one of its members being the Rt. Hon. John Sinclair, Lord Pentland, who was Secretary of State for Scotland in 1905, married a daughter of the Marquess of Aberdeen, was raised to the peerage in 1909, and has been Governor of Madras since 1912.

Among other notable personages of the name have been Oliver Sinclair, the notorious general of James V., who was defeated and captured by the English at Solway Moss in 1542, and released on condition of furthering the English interest. His brother, Henry Sinclair, Bishop of Ross, and President of the Court of Session, was a member of Queen Mary's Privy Council, had the distinction of being denounced by John Knox, and wrote additions to Boece's *History of Scotland*. Another distinguished brother was John Sinclair, Bishop of Brechin, who was believed to be the author of Sinclair's *Practicks*, was also denounced by John Knox, and officiated at the marriage of the Queen to Darnley in 1565. There was, again, the famous Master of Sinclair, son of the tenth Lord Sinclair. While serving with Marlborough in Flanders in 1708, he was sentenced to death for shooting Captain Shaw, and fled to Prussia till pardoned in 1712. During the rebellion of 1715 he distinguished himself by the capture, at Burntisland, near his own family estates, of a ship with Government munitions of war, destined for the Earl of Sutherland at Dunrobin. He was attainted, but pardoned in 1726, and was the author of *Memoirs of the Rebellion*, printed in 1858. A notable author of the name was George Sinclair, who died in 1696. Professor of Philosophy at Glasgow, he was compelled to resign for non-compliance with Episcopacy, but was reappointed after the Revolution. He was associated with the inventor in the use of the diving-bell, was one of the first in Scotland to use the barometer, and superintended the laying of Edinburgh water-pipes in 1673.

## SEPTS OF CLAN SINCLAIR

Caird  
Clyne



## CLAN SKENE

ACCORDING to a popular tradition, the founder of this ancient Aberdeenshire family was a valiant individual who, early in the eleventh century, distinguished himself by rescuing King Malcolm II. from the attack of a ferocious wolf, which he slew with his *skean* or dirk. It is a story similar to that of the young forester, who, after carrying off Malcolm's daughter Cora at the Falls of Clyde, saved that king's life three times at the great battle of Mortlach, and was rewarded with lands on the lower Cyde to which he gave the name of Eri-Skene, or Erskine, which had been his war-cry on the battlefield. It is much more likely that the families of Skene and of Erskine took their names in the usual way from the lands on which they settled. From time immemorial Skene has been a place-name quite apart from any connection with either of these families. Loch Skene, the famous fishing loch in Moffatdale from which descends the highest waterfall in Scotland, the Grey Mare's Tail, has no such personal association.

A much more believable tradition is that the Skenes are a branch of the Clan Donchadh or Robertson. The founder of the branch, according to the antiquary and Highland historian, Dr. W. F. Skene, was the second son of a Robertson Chief, and was himself known as Donchadh mor na Sgine, or Big Duncan of the Skean. The latter part of his designation, we may suspect, was derived, not from his weapon, but from the lands on which he settled. The Robertsons are believed to be the descendants of Conan, second son of Henry, last of the old Celtic Earls of Athol. Henry's eldest son had daughters only. Through them the earldom and the lower lands of Athol passes to Lowland families, while the Robertsons retained the upper and wilder districts. The newer or Lowland race of Earls, however, gradually ousted the Robertsons from large parts of their inheritance, and it is believed to have been during this process that Dunchadh Mor migrated across the hills to Deeside, and settled there on the lands about Loch Skene, which were to form the patrimony of his descendants for so many centuries.



SKENE





John le Skene and his son Patrick, who signed the Ragman Roll in 1296, are believed to have been son and grandson of Dunchadh Mor, and it is believed to have been Patrick's son who received a charter of the family lands from King Robert the Bruce in 1318. This charter runs, "Roberto Skene, dilecto et fideli nostro, pro homagio et servitio suo, omnes et singulos terras de Skene, et lacum ejusdem, per omnes rectas antiquas metas et divisas suas," etc.

In warlike affairs the family was consistently loyal, brave, and unfortunate. In 1411, when Donald of the Isles with his Celtic host swept across the north of Scotland with the intention of forcing the Regent, Robert, Duke of Albany, to disgorge the Earldom of Ross, the Laird of Skene raised an armed force, joined Albany's nephew, the Earl of Mar, and fell with many others of the gentlemen of the North at the bloody battle of Harlaw. To meet the occasion, Adam de Skene had raised money by a wadset on his estates, and for many years this proved a serious burden to his successors.

A century later, when James IV. mustered his forces on the Boroughmuir of Edinburgh to invade England, Alexander Skene of Skene was among those who obeyed his summons, and fell with the too chivalrous monarch on Flodden Field. The grandson of this laird again, another Alexander, fell at the battle of Pinkie in 1547, when the Scots were endeavouring to protect their capital and save the country and the infant Queen Mary from the "rough wooing" of the English Protector, Somerset.

Still later, after Queen Mary's return from France, when the Queen's brother Moray was at the beginning of those insidious plottings which in the end were to bring Mary to the scaffold at Fotheringay, and when, in the north, the Earl of Huntly made his great effort to resist these schemes, the Laird of Skene joined Huntly's forces and fell with that Earl and so many of his friends and vassals at the close-packed fight of Corrichie. Skene's youngest son and several of his kinsmen also fell in the same battle.

Notwithstanding these disasters the family survived, and in the succeeding centuries, by marriage and purchase added great areas to their possessions. Additions were made to the grim stone tower which is said to have been the first house built of stone and lime in the district of Mar, and to which access could only be gained by means of a ladder reaching the second floor. At the same time several branches of the family established themselves in

Aberdeenshire, notably at Dyce, Hallyards, and Cariston. As the Macphersons cherished the Black Chanter of Clan Chattan, while the Macleods treasured their Fairy Flag, and other clans of the West kept certain relics as trophies, charms, and incentives, the Skenes preserved a dirk, said to be the original skean of the founder of their house, Dunchadh Mor. This antique weapon was kept in the family charter chest, and on its safe custody was believed to depend the tenure of certain lands.

The senior line of the Skene family came to an end at the death of George, the twenty-first chief, in 1824. On that event, Skene and Cariston, the possessions of the house, passed to his sister's son, the fourth Earl Fife, who attained high distinction in the Peninsular War. This peer's nephew, the fifth Earl Fife, was created Baron Skene in the Peerage of the United Kingdom in 1857, and it was his son who in 1889 married the eldest daughter of the Prince of Wales, afterwards King Edward, and was created Duke of Fife.

Apart from its territorial importance the family of Skene has contributed a number of distinguished figures to the annals of Scotland. Gilbert Skeyne, who died in 1599, was Professor of Medicine at King's College, Aberdeen, in 1556. His *Brief Description of the Pest*, printed in 1568, was the earliest Scottish medical work; and he was appointed doctor of medicine to King James VI. in 1581. Sir John Skene, who died in 1617, began as a regent in St. Mary's College, St. Andrews, in 1564, became an advocate in 1575, and was granted a pension by the Regent Morton for his digest of the Scottish laws. He accompanied James VI. to Denmark and was ambassador to Holland in 1591. As King's Advocate he took a zealous part in prosecuting witches, and was made a Lord of Session and Lord Clerk Register with the title of Lord Curriehill in 1594. He was one of the Octavians, and a notable author on Scottish law. His son, again, Sir James Skene, became President of the Court of Session in 1626, and was created a baronet of Nova Scotia in 1630. Sir James's brother, John Skene, who died in 1644, was the reputed compiler of "Ancient Scottish Melodies," printed in 1838. James Skene, the friend of Sir Walter Scott, was a member of the Scottish Bar, and Secretary to the Board of Trustees and Manufacturers. He edited Spalding's *History of the Troubles*, in 1828, produced a "Series of Sketches of Existing Localities," alluded to in the *Waverley Novels*, in 1829, and was the author of manuscript memoranda utilised by Lockhart in his life of

Scott. He lived for six years, from 1838 till 1844, in Greece.

The daughter of this savant, Felicia Mary Skene, was the authoress of a volume of poems, several novels, and memoirs of her cousin, Alexander Penrose Forbes, and rivalled the work of Florence Nightingale of the same period by organising a band of nurses under Sir Henry Wentworth Acland during the outbreak of cholera at Oxford in 1854. And last of all, there was this lady's brother, William Forbes Skene, author of *The Highlanders of Scotland*, *The Four Ancient Books of Wales*, and *Celtic Scotland*, and editor of *Chronicles of the Picts and Scots*, and Fordoun's *Scotichronicon*. He held the office of clerk of the bills in the Court of Session, was made a D.C.L. of Oxford in 1879, and Historiographer of Scotland in 1881.

## SEPTS OF CLAN SKENE

Cariston  
Dyce  
Hallyard



## CLAN STEWART

BADGES : Royal—Cluaran (*carduus*) thistle.

Clan—Darach (*Quercus robur*) oak.

SLOGAN : Creag-an-Sgairbh.

PIBROCH : Earrach an 'aigh's a' ghleann, and Creag-an-Sgairbh.

WHEN Shakespeare, in writing *Macbeth*, paid his great compliment to King James VI. and I., he was drawing attention to the popular tradition that the monarch's lineage was at least as far descended as that of the English nobility whose ancestors "came over with William the Conqueror." Whether the Stewarts were really descended from Banquo, Thané of Lochaber in the eleventh century, may be disputed, but there can be no question of their descent from Walter Fitz-Alan, the Shropshire knight whom David I. settled at Renfrew about the year 1138.<sup>1</sup>

The purpose of that settlement is tolerably clear. The burning question of the hour for the Scottish monarch was the menace of Norse invasion in the Firth of Clyde. To oppose this invasion, David planted Walter Fitz-Alan where he could best bar the way to the heart of the kingdom, and made him Steward of Scotland. Most efficiently that guardian of the gate justified his appointment, driving the Norsemen out of Cowal and Bute, and when the mighty Somerled of the Isles brought an army to force the passage, overthrowing and slaying him at Renfrew itself in the year 1164. It was possibly as a thank-offering for this victory that Walter the Steward founded Paisley Abbey in that year.

For exactly another hundred years the great struggle went on, till in 1263, Walter's great-grandson, Alexander, now Lord High Steward of Scotland, finally overthrew the Norsemen under their king Hakon, at the battle of Largs.

Alexander's son James, who died in 1309, was the fifth High Steward or Stewart. From his brother, Sir John

<sup>1</sup> Walter's elder brother William was the progenitor of the Earls of Arundel; his younger brother, Simon, of the Boyds, Earls of Kilmarnock and now Earls of Erroll.



STEWART





Stewart of Bonkyl, who fell fighting along with Wallace for the cause of Scottish independence at the battle of Falkirk in 1298, a number of famous Scottish families took their origin. The line of his eldest son, Sir Alexander, became Earls of Angus, and ended in a female who carried the earldom to the Douglasses, who are Earls of Angus and Dukes of Hamilton at the present day. From his second son, Sir Alan Stewart of Darnley, descended the Stewart Earls of Lennox, whose heir, Lord Darnley married Mary Queen of Scots, and became ancestor of the later Stewart kings. From Sir Alan also descended the Earls of Galloway, who are chiefs of the Stewarts at the present hour. From Bonkyl's fourth son came the Stewarts of Innermeath in Strathearn, from whom descended the Stewart Lords of Lorn, the Stewarts of Murthly and Grandtully, the Stewart Earls of Athol, and the Stewarts of Appin. And from Bonkyl's sixth son, Sir Robert, came the Stewarts of Allanton and their cadets.

Meantime Bonkyl's nephew, Walter, the sixth High Stewart, had greatly distinguished himself in the cause of King Robert the Bruce, at the great battle of Bannockburn, and at the heroic defence of Berwick, and as a reward had received the hand of Bruce's only daughter, the Princess Marjory. Their married life was short. As she rode by the Knock between Renfrew and Paisley, Marjory was thrown from her horse and killed, and the life of her infant was only saved by the Cæsarean operation. The spot was long marked by a monolith known as Queen Bleary's Stone. The boy lived, however, and though he inherited his mother's weakness of the eyes, played a heroic part in Scottish history. From that old possession of his family, the island of Bute, which his ancestor had won from the Norsemen, he sallied forth to attack Dunoon and overthrow the entire conquest of Edward Baliol, and when he came to the throne as King Robert II. in 1371 he had earned it by his sword almost as heroically as his grandfather Robert the Bruce himself.

It is a point which has not been sufficiently noted by Scottish historians that from the two marriages of Robert II. a large proportion of the later troubles of the Stewart kings and of the kingdom of Scotland took rise. For centuries it was questioned whether his first union, with Elizabeth Mure of Rowallan, had ever been legitimised. In consequence the descendants of his second wife, Euphemia Ross, again and again made claim to the throne. From this cause arose directly the murder of King James I. in 1437 and the Douglas wars against

James II. in 1450. James I. was slain by the descendants of King Robert's second wife, whom he had dispossessed of the royal earldom of Strathearn; and the ambition of the Earls of Douglas was directly stimulated by the fact that they had inherited the claims of the family of Euphemia Ross and of the earlier great house of Comyn.

Other of the troubles of Scotland arose from the family arrangements of King Robert II. in another way. One of his daughters, Margaret, he married to John, Lord of the Isles, and as John was already married to his cousin Amy, he made him put her away, granted him a charter of her lands, and made the title and great possessions of the Lord of the Isles to descend to his own grandchildren, Margaret's sons. From this arrangement came endless trouble. Not even yet has it been settled absolutely whether Glengarry or Clanranald, the descendants of John's first wife, or Macdonald of the Isles, the descendant of his second wife, is the rightful Chief of the Macdonalds. From the first also there was trouble among the sons and grandsons of Robert II. His eldest son, King Robert III., whose real name was John, was practically displaced by his brother Robert, Duke of Albany, who first starved the king's eldest son to death at Falkland, and then secured the capture and imprisonment of the second son in England. And by way of reprisals, when he returned from his captivity, that second son, James I., sent to the block the Duke's son and grandsons who had succeeded to Albany's usurpation. Meanwhile the north of Scotland had been laid waste by the wars between the Duke of Albany and his sister's son, Donald of the Isles, for possession of the rich Earldom of Ross—wars which only came to an end with the terrific and bloody battle of Harlaw, fought near Aberdeen in 1411.

The leaders in that conflict were Donald of the Isles himself and his cousin Alexander Stewart, Earl of Mar. The latter had obtained his earldom by slaying the husband of Isabel, Countess of Mar, and then marrying the lady. He was a natural son of the fierce "Wolf of Badenoch," Alexander Stewart, Earl of Buchan, third son of King Robert II., who is remembered solely by his lawless deeds in the north, the burning of Forres and Elgin, and countless other oppressions. He had many illegitimate children, and many of the name of Stewart in Atholl and Banffshire are his descendants.

A notable Stewart family in the south, that of Bute, is directly descended from Robert II. himself. On succeeding to the throne, that king appointed his natural son,



GARTH CASTLE, GLENLYON, BUILT BY THE  
WOLF OF BADENOCH





Sir John Stewart of Dundonald, known as the Red Stewart, to be Constable of Rothesay Castle and Hereditary Sheriff of Bute, thus handing to his son and that son's descendants in perpetuity the islands which had been captured by the sword of his ancestor, Walter Fitz-Alan, the first of the Stewarts. After the execution of Murdoch, Duke of Albany, and two of his sons at the instance of James I. in 1425, a third son who had escaped took vengeance by burning Dunbarton, and in it this same Red Stewart of Dundonald, uncle of the king. But Sir John Stewart's direct descendant is Marquess of Bute at the present hour.

Two of the sons of Murdoch, Duke of Albany, also left natural sons. Of them, Walter Stewart of Morphy, son of Sir Walter Stewart, beheaded at Stirling, became ancestor of the Earls of Castle-Stuart in Ireland, and also, by the marriage of a descendant to the daughter of the Regent Earl of Moray, half-brother of Mary Queen of Scots, became ancestor of the Earls of Moray of to-day. Another of Duke Murdoch's sons, Sir James Mohr Stewart, had a natural son, James "beg" Stewart of Baldorran, who became ancestor of the Stewarts of Ardvorlich on Lochearnside, whose family history is recounted by Sir Walter Scott in *A Legend of Montrose*.

Most romantic of all the memories of the Stewarts, however, is probably that connected with the settlement of the race in Lorn, Appin, and Atholl. On the death of Ewen, Lord of Lorn, of the days of Robert II., his estates passed to his daughters and co-heiresses. These daughters had married two brothers, John and Robert Stewart of Innermeath, descendants of the fourth son of Sir John Stewart of Bonkyl, already referred to. These two brothers made a bargain. Robert gave up his wife's share of Lorn in exchange for his brother's share of Innermeath. Sir John Stewart who thus relinquished his share of Innermeath and became Lord of all Lorn, had a second son Sir James, known as the Black Knight of Lorn. After the assassination of James I. at the Charterhouse of Perth in 1437, this Black Knight married the widowed Queen Joan, and they had a son, John, who was of course half-brother to the king, James II. When that king in 1450 finally overthrew the last Earl of Douglas, he found a fair lady on his hands. This lady, known from her beauty as the Fair Maid of Galloway, was the heiress to all the great Douglas estates, and, as a child, had been married in succession by William, Earl of Douglas, whom James stabbed in Stirling Castle, and his brother, Earl James,

who was overthrown at Arkinholme. While Earl James fled into exile in England, from which he was only to return to die a monk at Lindores, the king procured a divorce for his fair young wife, and married her to his own half-brother, John, son of Queen Joan and the Black Knight of Lorn. He conferred upon the pair the Douglas lordship of Balveny, and they became presently Earl and Countess of Atholl. The Earl played a distinguished part in three reigns. On the death of the fifth Stewart Earl of Atholl, in 1595, the title passed first to Stewart of Innermeath, and afterwards, on the Innermeath line becoming extinct, to John Murray, son of the eldest daughter of the fifth Earl, by his marriage with the second Earl of Tullibardine. The direct descendant of that union is Duke of Atholl at the present day.

Meanwhile through Robert, elder brother of the Black Knight of Lorn, the line of the Stewart Lords of Lorn was carried on. The line ended in two heiresses who married Campbells, when this family secured the Lordship of Lorn. A natural son of Stewart of Lorn, however, with the help of his mother's people, the Clan MacLaurin, succeeded in seizing and retaining the district of Appin, and founding the family of the Stewarts of Appin. In the days of James IV., Duncan Stewart of Appin built on an islet in Loch Linnhe the stronghold of Castle Stalker in which he entertained his "cousin" the King. During the Jacobite rising in 1745 under Prince Charles Edward the Appin Stewarts, led by Stewart of Ardsheal, played a conspicuous part. Sir Walter Scott in *Waverley* tells how Stewart of Invernahyle saved the life of Colonel Whiteford of Ballochmyle, and how, after the overthrow at Culloden, Colonel Whiteford returned the obligation by obtaining a pardon for Invernahyle by a special and chivalrous interview at Whitehall. In Appin itself a cave is shown behind a waterfall, in which Ardsheal hid for a time from the red soldiers, as well as the hollow in the top of a great boulder in which he was afterwards concealed. As a result the Appin estates were forfeited for a time, and while they were under the management of Campbell of Glenure the famous Appin murder took place which forms the pivot of R. L. Stevenson's famous story *Kidnapped*. The spot where Glenure was shot is marked by a cairn behind Kentalen. The supposed murderer was Alan Breck Stewart, who escaped to France, but as a victim James Stewart of the Glens was seized, tried by the Campbells at Inveraray, and hanged in chains on the little mount behind Ballachulish Hotel.



The Chief of the Appin Stewarts is now Robert Bruce Stewart, a lawyer in London.

From Alexander, younger brother of the Black Knight of Lorn, are descended the Stewarts of Grandtully below Aberfeldy in Perthshire. It was Sir James Stewart of Grandtully who, before he succeeded to the family title and estates, ran away with Lady Jane, sister of the first and last Duke of Douglas, and whose son by her was the claimant in the great Douglas Cause. The House of Lords declared Archibald Stewart to be really Lady Jane's son, and he accordingly came into possession of the great Douglas estates, and was created Lord Douglas by George III.

Of the main line of the Stewarts, as represented by the kings of that name, the history is too well known to need recounting here. Of two of its members, Mary Queen of Scots and Bonnie Prince Charlie, the careers are among the most romantic and moving in the world's annals. From first to last these Stewart kings were consistently unfortunate, yet their lives give a brilliance and glamour to history that is entirely lacking from the sedate annals of other dynasties. Their legitimate male line came to an end with Henry, Cardinal York, the younger brother of Prince Charles, who died in 1807, but three of the great ducal houses of the country, those of Buccleuch, Richmond and Gordon, and St. Albans, are directly descended from natural sons of King Charles II.

The spelling of the name Stuart, used by the royal family and the Marquess of Bute was probably introduced by Queen Mary on her return from France.

#### SEPTS OF THE ROYAL STEWARTS

Boyd	France
Garrow	Lennox
Menteith	Monteith

#### SEPTS OF THE STEWARTS OF APPIN

Carmichael	Combich
Livingston	Livingstone
MacCombich	Mackinlay
Maclae	Maclay
Maclea	Macleay
MacMichael	

#### SEPTS OF THE STEWARTS OF ATHOLL

Crookshanks	Cruickshanks
Duilach	Gray
Macglashan	

## SEPTS OF THE STUARTS OF BUTE

Bannatyne	Fullarton
Fullerton	Jameson
Jamieson	MacCamie
McCloy	MacCaw
MacKirdy	MacLewis
MacMutrie	

## SEPTS OF THE STEWARTS OF GALLOWAY

Carmichael	MacMichael
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SUTHERLAND





## CLAN SUTHERLAND

BADGE : Bealaidh chatti (*Ruscus occiliatus*) Butcher's broom.

PIBROCH : Piobaireachd nan Catach.

SLOGAN : Ceann na Drochaide Bige.

ONE of the many clans of Scotland which have never been of Celtic blood, or have been so only by marriage, the race of Sutherland has nevertheless always been one of the most powerful in the north, and at the present hour its real leader, if not its actual Chief, the Duke of Sutherland, is the largest landowner and one of the greatest nobles in the kingdom.

The district from which the clan takes its name, and which was then of much less extent than at the present day, was no doubt named Sudrland or Sutherland by the Norwegians by reason of its position with respect to Caithness, for long the only possession of these invaders on the mainland of Scotland. Skene, in his *Highlanders of Scotland*, supports the theory that Thorfinn, the Norwegian Jarl of Orkney, on overthrowing Moddan, maormar of the region, in 1034, expelled or destroyed all the Celtic inhabitants, and that the Celts who afterwards formed part of its population were chiefly of the Clan Ross, who migrated into it at a later day from adjoining districts. There seems, however, as little reason to believe that the Norwegians drove the Celts out of Sutherland as to believe that they drove them out of other parts of the country which they conquered. Skene's idea is merely his means of fitting facts to his general thesis, that the Scottish clans are descendants of the ancient Picts, and not of a race of Gaelic invaders from Ireland. It is his way of accounting for the fact that no Highland clans whatever are to be found descended from the ancient inhabitants of this region. The truth, however, as now very well ascertained, seems to be that the Gaelic invasion from the west and the Norwegian invasion from the north went on at the same time, that the people whom the Norwegians submersed in Sutherland in the eleventh century were not Gael but Picts, and that the later Gaelic incomers from the west were the first of that race to set foot on the soil.

In any case, it appears certain that the ancestor of the Sutherland Chiefs was neither Gael nor Pict. That ancestor was the famous Freskin, ancestor also of the Douglasses, and said to be a Fleming, who received from David I. the lands of Strathbrock in Linlithgowshire, and afterwards, for his skill and bravery in suppressing the rebellion of the Moray men in 1130, certain fertile lands in that region and those of Sutherland which they also possessed. Freskin's second son, William, who was a trusted attendant of William the Lion, got the Moray estates on the death of his father in 1171, and became ancestor of the Murrays of Tullibardine, whose Chief is Duke of Atholl at the present day. Freskin's eldest son, Hugh, succeeded to the greater estate of Sutherland, granted the lands of Skibo to his cousin Gilbert, Archdeacon of Moray and founder of Dornoch Cathedral, and died in 1214. His son William, styled Lord of Sutherland, took an active part with Comyn the Justiciar in suppressing the rebellion of Gillespie MacScolane, who in 1228 burned the crown lands in the North and set fire to Inverness. For this service Sutherland was made an Earl by Alexander II.

William, second Earl of Sutherland, was the hero who overthrew a large force of invading Danes at the battle of Embo in 1259, himself slaying their leader with the leg of a horse, a circumstance commemorated in the name of Dornoch—a horse's hoof, and by the Earl's Cross which still stands on the spot. He was one of the Scottish nobles who at Scone in 1284 settled the succession to the Scottish Crown on the Maid of Norway, granddaughter of Alexander III. His son, another William, was one of the eighteen Highland chiefs who fought in Bruce's army at Bannockburn, and six years later he signed the famous letter to the Pope declaring Scottish independence. This chief's brother, Kenneth, the fourth Earl, married a daughter of the Earl of Mar, and fell at the disastrous battle of Halidon Hill in 1333.

His son, William, fifth Earl, married Margaret, daughter of King Robert the Bruce by his second wife, Elizabeth de Burgh, and sister of David II. Following this marriage King David raised the Earldom of Sutherland into a regality, and plotted to make the son of this union heir to his crown instead of Robert the Steward, son of the Princess Marjorie, Bruce's daughter by his first wife. In support of this plot, Earl William made grants of land in the shires of Inverness and Aberdeen to various powerful individuals, whose goodwill it was



desirable to secure. But the plot came to nothing. The son, John, died at Lincoln of the plague while a hostage for the King's ransom, and the Earl himself, who had been one of the Scottish commissioners for the release of the King, and a hostage for him afterwards, only secured his liberty in 1367, and died at Dunrobin three years later.

His second son, Robert, who became sixth Earl, was present at the surprise of Berwick by the Scots in 1384. He married Mabel, daughter of John, Earl of Moray, and granddaughter of the famous Black Agnes, daughter of Randolph Earl of Moray and Countess of March, who so heroically defended Dunbar against the English. Their son, Nicholas, the seventh Earl, married a daughter of the Lord of the Isles. From his second son are descended the Sutherlands of Berriedale, and from his third the Sutherlands of Forse. In his time began the first of the great feuds between the Sutherlands and the Mackays of Strathnaver. To put an end to the trouble, the Earl in 1395 arranged a meeting at Dingwall Castle, in presence of his father-in-law, the Lord of the Isles, and other witnesses. At the conference, however, the altercation so incensed the Earl that he slew the opposing chief, Hugh Mackay of Fay and his son Donald with his own hand. Sutherland escaped with difficulty to his own country, and prepared for defence; but the Mackays were not strong enough to attack him, and when he died, four years later, his successor, Earl Robert, effected a reconciliation.

A few years later the Earl had an opportunity of still further securing Mackay's adherence. The latter had married a sister of Malcolm Macleod of the Lewis. On his death his brother, Hucheon Dhu Mackay, became tutor or guardian of his two sons. Macleod, hearing that his sister, Mackay's widow, was not being well treated by the tutor, invaded Strathnaver, and laid it waste with a great part of the Breachat in Sutherland. The tutor asked help from the Earl, who responded by sending a force under Alexander Murray of Cubin, which, joining with the Mackays, came up with the Macleods on the march of Sutherland and Ross. Here a desperate fight took place. Only one of the Macleods escaped to carry the news to the Lewis, and died immediately afterwards of his wounds.

A little later, Thomas Mackay, a nephew of Hucheon Dhu, burned Mowat of Freshwick and his people in the chapel of St. Duffus at Tain. For this outrage James I. declared Mackay a rebel, and offered his lands to anyone who should kill or capture him. The enterprise was undertaken by Angus, son of Alexander Murray of Cubin, who,

securing the help of Mackay's two brothers by offering them his daughters in marriage, apprehended Thomas Mackay, who was forthwith executed at Inverness. Murray then obtained Mackay's lands of Palrossie and Spaniziedale in Sutherland, married his daughters to the two Mackays, and, with the consent of the Earl of Sutherland, proceeded to invade the Mackay country in Strathnaver, which his sons-in-law claimed should be theirs. Angus Dhu Mackay, the Chief, their cousin, however, raised his clan, and as he was old and infirm, gave the command to his natural son, John Aberich. The two forces met at Drum-na-Cuip, two miles from Tongue.

Before the battle Angus Dhu sent an offer to resign all his other lands to his cousins if they would allow him to keep Kingtail. This fair offer they rejected. In the fierce fight which followed John Aberich was victorious, though he lost an arm, while Angus Murray and his two sons-in-law were slain. After the battle Angus Dhu had himself carried to the field to seek the bodies of his cousins, and while doing this was killed with an arrow by a Sutherland man from behind a bush.

Earl Robert was, in 1427, one of the hostages to England for the payment of the ransom of King James I. He married a daughter of the King's cousin, the Earl of Buchan, and died at Dunrobin in 1442. His son, John, the tenth Earl, married a famous beauty of her time, Margaret, daughter of Sir William Baillie of Lamington, a descendant of the Scottish patriot, Sir William Wallace. In the time of this Earl John occurred the life and death struggle between King James II. and the House of Douglas. That struggle reached as far as Sutherland. Upon the overthrow of the last Earl of Douglas by the King, Douglas made an alliance with the King of England and the Lord of the Isles, and while Donald Balloch, kinsman of the Island Lord, invaded the Firth of Clyde with a great fleet and laid waste Arran, Bute, the Cumbræes, and Inverkip, the Lord of the Isles himself made an incursion into Sutherland and besieged Skibo Castle. To raise the siege Earl John sent a force under Neil Murray, son of the doughty Angus slain at Drum-na-Cuip. Murray attacked the Lord of the Isles and forced him to retreat to Ross with the loss of one of his chieftains and fifty men. To avenge this disgrace, Macdonald sent a force to lay waste the Sutherland country. This invasion was met by a force under the Earl of Sutherland's brother, Robert, and after a bloody struggle on the sands of Strathfleet, the Islesmen were overthrown with great slaughter.



This feud with Clan Donald was ended by a marriage between the Earl of Sutherland's son John and Fingole, daughter of Celestine, brother of the Lord of the Isles. John succeeded as tenth Earl in 1460. Twenty-seven years later the Sutherlands were drawn into another of the blood feuds which formed one of the strongest motives of Highland life for many centuries. Angus Mackay, grandson of Angus Dhu, having been slain at Tarbert by a Ross, his son, John Riach Mackay, asked the help of his feudal chief, the Earl of Sutherland, to avenge the death. The Earl sent a party under his uncle, Robert Sutherland. This force of Mackays and Sutherlands, with whom was William, son of John Aberich, invaded Strathoykell and laid it waste. They were attacked at Aldicharish, by Ross of Balnagown, chief of that clan, but Balnagown and seventeen of his chief followers being slain, the rest of his force fled and was cut to pieces. An immense booty fell to the victors. This was divided on the same day, but its value excited the greed of the men of Assynt, and they induced John Riach Mackay to agree to a most perfidious and diabolical plot—the murder of the friends who had come to his help. Their scheme was to cut off Robert Sutherland and his party, and give out that they had fallen in battle. When the plot was broached to William Aberich he was horrified, and took means to warn Robert Sutherland, who at once got his men together and prepared for attack. John Riach Mackay, however, finding the Sutherlands prepared, abandoned his disgraceful plan and slunk home to Strathnaver.

Hugh Roy Mackay, brother of this John Riach, played a part in another enterprise which concerned the Sutherlands. A certain Sir James Dunbar of Cumnock had married the beautiful Margaret Baillie, Countess Dowager of Sutherland, and with others of his name had settled in the north. Alexander Sutherland of Dilred had borrowed money from him, and being unable or unwilling to repay, was sued for the debt. Conceiving a grudge at the Dunbars as incomers, he picked a quarrel with Alexander Dunbar, Sir James's brother, and after a long combat, killed him. Sir James went to Edinburgh and laid the matter before James IV., who was so incensed that he outlawed Dilred and promised his lands to any person who should arrest him. Dilred was arrested with ten of his followers by Hugh Roy Mackay, his uncle, and was duly tried and executed, while MacKay received a grant of his lands from the King.

It seems to have been either the tenth or eleventh Earl,



both of whom were named John, who was the chief actor in a tragic occurrence at the family seat of Dunrobin. The Earl had two nephews, sons of a natural brother, Thomas More. These young men often annoyed their uncle, and at last one day invaded the castle and braved him to his face. Their act so enraged him that he killed one on the spot. The other escaped with some wounds, but was overtaken and slain at a spot at hand, afterwards known from the fact as Keith's Bush.

The eleventh Earl, dying without lawful issue, was succeeded in 1514 by his sister Elizabeth. She had married Adam Gordon, second son of the Earl of Huntly, and he accordingly took the title of Earl of Sutherland.

On this succession of a new family to the Earldom of Sutherland, there began a series of conflicts, first with the Mackays of Strathnaver and afterwards with the Earls of Caithness, which kept the far north in turmoil for three-quarters of a century.

The eleventh Earl had left a natural son, Alexander Sutherland, who, pretending that his parents had been married, laid claim to the title and estates. In July, 1509, however, he was induced by the new Earl to sign a document before the Sheriff of Inverness renouncing his claim. Seven years later, fearing other trouble, Earl Adam engaged the Earl of Caithness in a treaty of friendship, and to secure his goodwill conveyed to him some lands in Strathully. But these transactions only delayed the storm. In 1517, while the Earl was absent in Edinburgh, John Mackay of Strathnaver, a natural son of Hugh Roy Mackay, who had beheaded his own uncle and seized his lands, invaded Sutherland with a prodigious force gathered throughout the north by promise of plunder. In the emergency the Countess of Sutherland induced her bastard brother, Alexander Sutherland, to oppose Mackay. Assisted by John Murray of Aberscors and the Chief of Clan Gunn, Sutherland raised a force, and encountered the Mackays at Torrandhu in Strathfleet. Sutherland's force was much the smaller of the two, but he attacked vigorously, and after a severe and bloody action entirely defeated his opponents, who lost about three hundred men. Mackay next, attributing his defeat to Murray of Aberscors, sent two kinsmen with a force to destroy him. But Murray met them at Loch Salchie, and cut them to pieces. Mackay, still further exasperated, sent yet another party to burn Murray's village of Pitfour, but it met the same fate, one of his nephews, who led it, being slain, and the other taken prisoner. The Earl of

Sutherland then returning from Edinburgh, Mackay thought it prudent to submit to him and give him a bond of service; but he secretly tampered with the bastard, Alexander Sutherland, to renew his claim to the Earldom and estates. Sutherland, it is said, was further persuaded by a witch's prophecy that his head should be the highest that ever was of the Sutherlands. In consequence, while the Earl was absent in Strathbogie, Sutherland attacked and took Dunrobin. John Murray of Aberscours promptly raised a force for defence, and, reinforced by a body of men sent north by the Earl, besieged Dunrobin, which surrendered. Alexander Sutherland had retired into Strathnaver, but he now returned with a fresh body of men, wasting the country and putting to death several of his own kinsmen who had joined the Earl's party. Flushed with success, he grew careless, and was lying at a place called Ald-Quhillin, on the Sutherland coast, when the Earl himself came upon him, took him prisoner, and slew most of his men. Sutherland himself was immediately executed, and his head on a spear placed on the top of the great tower at Dunrobin, thus dramatically fulfilling the witch's prophecy.

The Earl, being now well advanced in years, retired to his native country of Strathbogie and Aboyne, leaving the conduct of affairs to his son Alexander, the Master of Sutherland. John Mackay, still thirsting for revenge, thought this a favourable chance to retrieve his losses. Twice he attempted to invade Sutherland, but on each occasion was driven out by the Master, who retaliated by dispossessing him of his estates in Sutherland and plundering and burning Strathnaver. Finally, Mackay, attempting a third expedition, the Master came suddenly upon him near Lairg, cut his force to pieces, and recovered the plunder he had taken. Mackay only escaped by swimming to Eilean Minric and submitting once more to the Earl. This was in 1522, and John Mackay himself died in 1529.

These and the subsequent raids and burnings between the Sutherlands and Mackays and the Earls of Sutherland and of Caithness respectively are detailed with much quaintness by Sir Robert Gordon of Gordonstown, the historian of the Sutherlands. Only two episodes of the feud characteristic of the time need be noted here.

The Master of Sutherland dying in 1529, eight years before his father, the Earldom was inherited by his son John, known as the Good Earl. He was Lieutenant of Moray in 1547, and along with his cousin George, fourth Earl of Huntly, accompanied the Queen Regent, widow of



James V., to France in 1550. For taking part in Huntly's rebellion in 1562 he was forfeited, and retired to Flanders, but the forfeiture was rescinded in 1565. Two years later he was staying with his countess, then pregnant, and his only son, with Isobel Sinclair, widow of his uncle, Gilbert Gordon of Gartay, at Helmsdale Castle. This lady's son was next heir to the earldom, and, whether or not she was instigated by her relative, the Earl of Caithness, she conceived the diabolic scheme of opening the way for her son's succession by poisoning her guests. The poison was mixed with the ale with which the Earl and Countess were supplied at supper, and they died five days later at Dunrobin. The Earl's son only escaped by the fact that he was late at a hunting party, and on his return was warned by his father not to touch the repast. For this crime Isobel Sinclair was tried and condemned to death, but escaped execution by destroying herself in prison at Edinburgh.

Alexander, the thirteenth Earl, who thus succeeded, was committed by his sister to the care of the Earl of Atholl, who disposed of his wardship to George, Earl of Caithness, the house's enemy. This nobleman seized the boy in Skibo Castle, carried him off to Caithness, and forced him at the age of sixteen to marry his own daughter, Lady Barbara Sinclair, a profligate woman of thirty-two. Two years later the young Earl escaped from his sinister guardian, who had taken up residence at Dunrobin and formed a design upon his life, and on attaining his majority in 1573 he divorced Lady Barbara. He afterwards married his second cousin, Lady Jean Gordon, sister of the fifth Earl of Huntly, who had been previously married to the Earl of Bothwell, but repudiated when that unscrupulous nobleman wished to marry Queen Mary. It may be mentioned here that when Bothwell married Lady Jean he was already the husband of a wife in Denmark. Earl Alexander died in his forty-third year, and his countess afterwards married Ogilvie of Boyne, whom also she survived. To the Earl of Sutherland she had four sons, the youngest of whom was that Sir Robert Gordon of Gordonstown who was created a Baronet of Nova Scotia, the first of the order, in 1625, and became the historian of the family. He was tutor to his nephew, the fifteenth Earl, throughout a long minority, during which, with much wisdom and skill, he kept the peace of the country, greatly improved the fortunes of the Earldom, and completely secured it against the intrigues of the Earls of Caithness.



The line of the Gordon Earls of Sutherland, who afterwards held high offices and honours in the State, came to an end with the death of William, nineteenth Earl, at Bath in 1766. The title and estates were then claimed by Sir Robert Gordon of Gordonstown and George Sutherland of Fors, and the case, in which the celebrated Lord Hailes took part, remains among the most famous in our legal annals. It was finally decided, however, by the House of Lords in 1771 in favour of the late Earl's only surviving daughter, Elizabeth. This lady married, in 1785, George Granville Leveson-Gower, Viscount Trentham, afterwards second Marquess of Stafford, who was, in 1833, created Duke of Sutherland. From that time to this the distinguished holders of the Sutherland titles have been of the Leveson-Gower family, and only distantly related, through the two heiresses named Elizabeth, of the sixteenth and eighteenth centuries respectively, to the original heads of the clan of the name of Murray or Sutherland. Meanwhile the actual chiefship of the clan by male descent was believed to be vested in William Sutherland of Killipheder, who enjoyed a small annuity from the Duchess-Countess, and died at a great age in 1832, and after him in John Campbell Sutherland of Fors, in the county of Caithness. The last-named died about 1917, leaving five daughters but no son. In the course of the intervening centuries the race of the famous Freskin the Fleming has made a mighty record in the history of Scotland.

## SEPTS OF CLAN SUTHERLAND

Cheyne  
Gray  
Mowat

Federith  
Keith  
Oliphant

## CLAN URQUHART

**BADGE:** Lus leth 'n t-samhradh (cheiranthus) native wallflower.

THE name Urquhart, which is still widespread in the counties of Ross and Cromarty, has been the subject of much curious speculation. The family genealogist, Sir Thomas Urquhart, Knight of Cromartie, of the days of Charles I. and Charles II., declares it variously to be derived from *Ourohartos*, "fortunate and well-beloved," and to have the same meaning as Adam, namely, "red earth." He backs up the latter speculation with a pedigree which traces the descent of the clan from the first parents of mankind, and makes *Ourohartos* to have been the familiar name of Esormon, of whom he himself was the 128th descendant. While the worthy if eccentric chief of the seventeenth century was no doubt as amply justified as other people in claiming descent from "the grand old gardener and his wife," it may be feared that absolute reliance is not to be placed upon the authenticity of all the links in his long connecting chain.

More authentic, probably, is the origin of the clan and name given by Nisbet in his *Heraldry*. "A brother," he says, "of Ochonchar, who slew the bear, and was predecessor of the Lords Forbes, having in keeping the castle of Urquhart, took his surname from the place." Urquhart, or Urchard, is the name of a district in Inverness-shire, and the ruin of Urquhart Castle, which was a royal stronghold in early times, still stands at the foot of Glen Urquhart, on the western side of Loch Ness, and was the scene of a famous siege by the army of Edward I. of England, during which the wife of the governor, about to become a mother, escaped in the guise of a beggar driven forth from the gate.

It should here be noted, however, that in the old county of Cromarty itself, in the Black Isle, lies a district known as the White Bog, or Glen Urquhart, and it seems possible that this was the original seat of the Urquhart family, and the property from which that family took its name. There are also parishes of Urquhart in Ross and Moray shires.

At the time of the siege of Urquhart Castle the ancestor



URQUHART





of the Urquhart Chiefs was Sheriff of Cromarty. Lord Hailes in his *Annals* describes how, during the competition for the Scottish crown at the end of the thirteenth century, Edward I. ordered a list of the Sheriffs of Scotland to be made out. In that list appears the name of William Urquhart of Cromarty, Heritable Sheriff of the county. Evidently, therefore, even at that early date, the family was already of considerable importance in Cromarty and the north.

The Heritable Sheriff of the days of Edward I. and King Robert the Bruce married a daughter of Hugh, Earl of Ross, and his son Adam obtained charters of various lands. In the years that followed, the family estates were greatly enlarged by marriages with heiresses of the neighbouring Mackenzies and others.

Thomas Urquhart of Cromarty, chief of the name in the first half of the sixteenth century, had a family of no fewer than eleven daughters and twenty-five sons. Of these sons, seven fell at the battle of Pinkie in 1547, and from another descended the Urquharts of Newhall, Montegale, Kinbeachie, and Brae-Langwell. The eldest of the family, Alexander Urquhart of Cromarty, in 1532, under a charter of James V., acquired the lands of Inch Rory and others, in the shires of Ross and Inverness. He had two sons, the younger of whom, John Urquhart of Craighfintry, born in the year of the disastrous battle above mentioned, was afterwards known as the Tutor of Cromarty, to be referred to presently.

The elder son's grandson, who succeeded to the chieftship was Sir Thomas Urquhart, the family genealogist of the days of Charles I., already mentioned. During his minority the estates prospered under the management of his grand-uncle the Tutor, who died only in 1631 at the age of eighty-four. Born in 1611, Sir Thomas was educated at King's College, Aberdeen, and travelled in France, Spain, and Italy. On the outbreak of the Civil War he took the side of Charles I. and fought against the Covenanters at Turriff in 1639. Two years later he was knighted by the king and began a notable literary career by the publication of his *Epigrams*. After returning from London to Scotland to arrange his affairs in 1642, he again went abroad, and remained there till 1645. On his return he published *Trissotetras*, a work on trigonometry, and for five years resided in Cromarty Tower, on his ancestral estate. Then the news reached him of the execution of Charles I., and he forthwith took part, along with the Mackenzies, Monroes, and other clans, in the Inverness

rising of 1649, which proclaimed that monarch's elder son as Charles II. After the young king's landing in the north of Scotland in the following year Sir Thomas again took arms, and as an officer in the royal army followed Charles into England. At the battle of Worcester he was made prisoner, and had many of his manuscripts destroyed. During his captivity in the Tower of London and at Windsor he published his *True Pedigree and Lineal Descent of the Most Ancient and Honourable Family of Urquhart, since the Creation of the World*, as well as an invective against the Scottish Presbyterians. In 1652 he returned to Scotland on parole, to find that his affairs had gone to ruin in his absence. The trustees to whom he had entrusted the care of his estates had pillaged his lands and appropriated the rents. Believing him to be dead they had even abstracted his title-deeds and other documents, and one of them, Leslie of Findrassie, had made a predatory raid on one of his chief vassals.

His clansmen would have avenged his wrongs by force even at that late day, but he would not hear of it, and in the end his property was sequestrated, and to his great grief a choice collection of books which he had formed was dispersed. In 1653, he published his scheme for a universal language, and also the first part of his most important work, a translation of Rabelais. These were only a moiety of the literary achievements he had planned. "Had I not," he says, "been pluck'd away by the importunity of my creditors, I would have emitted to public view above five hundred several treatises on inventions never hitherto thought upon by any." He afterwards went abroad, and his death place is unknown. Tradition says he expired of an inordinate fit of joyous laughter on hearing of the restoration of Charles II. to the throne in 1660. A further part of his Rabelais was published in 1693, and his miscellaneous works were published in 1774 and 1834.

The senior line of the Urquharts came to an end with the death of Colonel James Urquhart, an officer of much distinction, in 1741. The chiefship of the clan then devolved on a descendant of the Tutor. The latter's son had married, in 1636, Elizabeth, heiress of the ancient family of Seton, of Meldrum in Aberdeenshire, and his descendants were known as the Urquharts of Meldrum. Still later, the representation devolved on the Urquharts of Brae-Langwell, descended from a brother of the Tutor, but Brae-Langwell was sold, excepting a small portion,



which was strictly entailed, by Charles Gordon Urquhart, an officer in the Scots Greys.

Among notable bearers of the name of Urquhart have been Thomas Urquhart, the famous violin-maker of London, who flourished about 1650, and David Urquhart, the diplomatist and traveller, who after serving in the Greek navy, and advocating Turkish autonomy, represented Stafford in Parliament from 1847 to 1852, bitterly opposed Palmerston, and died at Naples in 1877.

Meanwhile, after the sequestration of Sir Thomas Urquhart in the middle of the seventeenth century, the ancient possessions of the Urquhart chiefs passed into possession of Mackenzie of Tarbat, and Sir George, second baronet of Tarbat, the famous antiquary, Lord Justice General, and Secretary of State, who was made Earl of Cromarty by Queen Anne in 1703, had them included, along with his other landed possessions, in the widely scattered county of Cromarty, a territory fifteen times as great as that ruled by the Heritable Sheriff of the days of Edward I. and Robert the Bruce.



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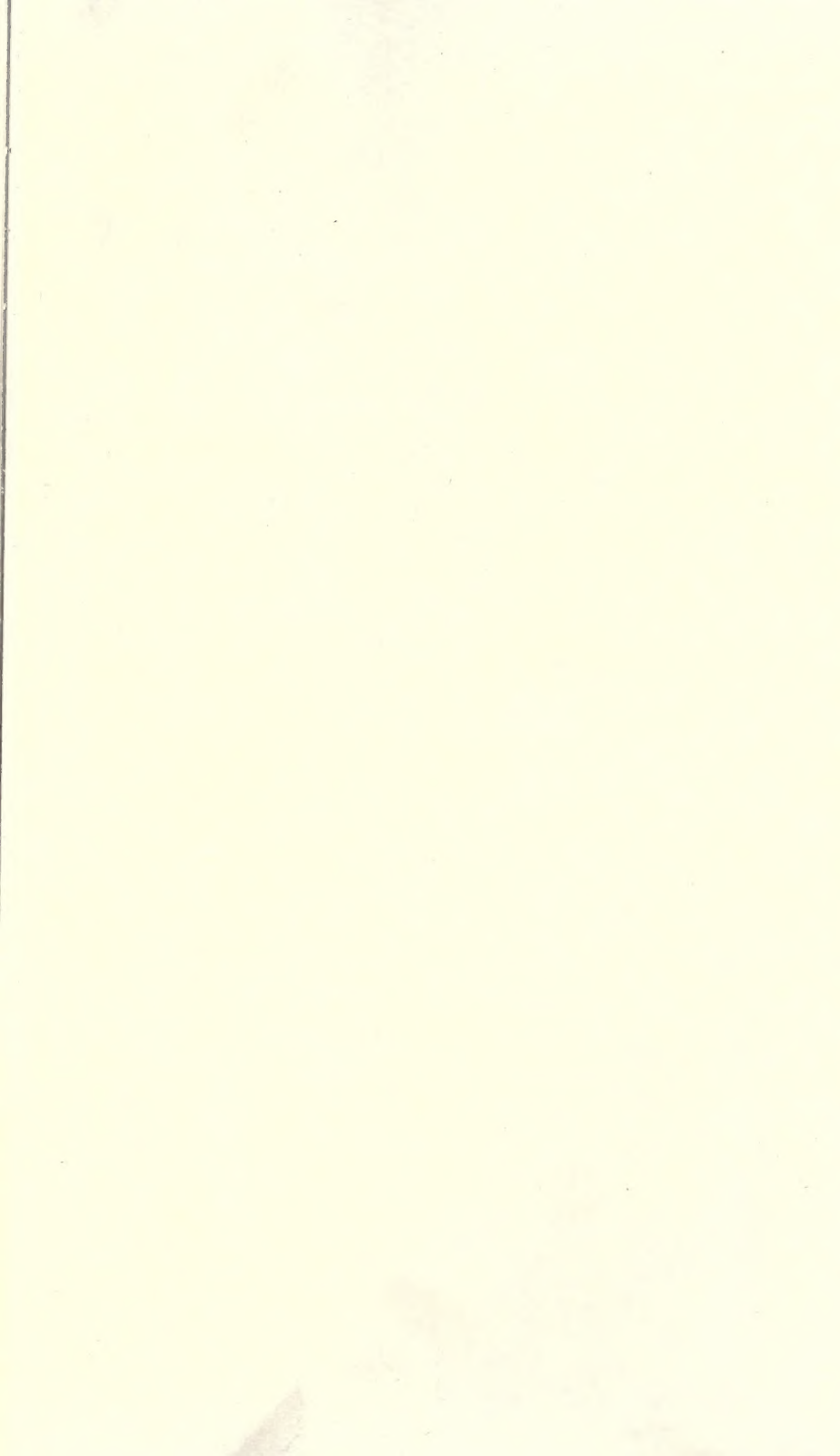
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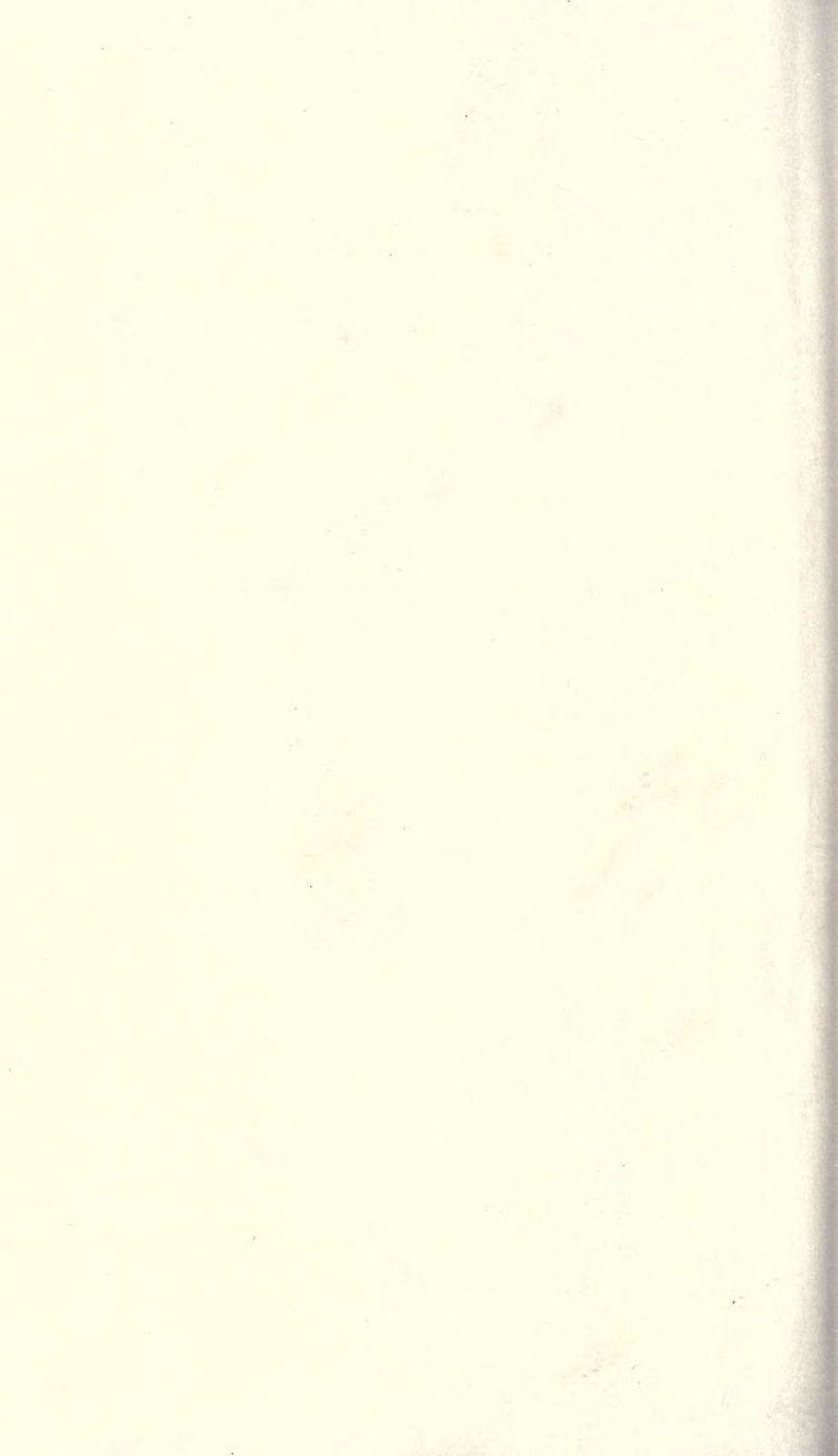


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